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Tenth Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts

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(July 1, 1982 - June 30, 1983)

February 1984

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Administrative Office of the Courts
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Atlanta, Georgia 30334

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Foreword

As chairman of the Judicial Council during FY'83, it is my pleasure to present our *Tenth Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts*, prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts as required by Georgia Laws 1973, p. 288, and by Order of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

During the year, both constitutional and statutory changes furthered efforts to achieve a working unified judicial system. Legislative activity supplemented the provisions of a revised judicial article to provide a new system of magistrate courts, uniformity among state courts, and the nonpartisan election of judges of the appellate, superior and state courts. Representatives of all trial courts met under the aegis of the Supreme Court to initiate the development of uniform rules. Legislation also provided for the first time that judges of any court can sit on any other court on a temporary basis, if otherwise qualified and approved by the officials involved.

The General Assembly increased the number of judicial circuits in Georgia by creating the Appalachian Judicial Circuit from the existing Blue Ridge circuit effective immediately following the end of fiscal year 1983. Probate court judges and superior court clerks received minimum salary increases also as a result of legislative action.

For the most part, the state's judicial agencies continued to provide support to the courts at continuation levels. While all court support organizations encountered budgetary difficulties, two court administrative agencies, the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Judicial Administrative Districts, found it necessary to decrease scheduled services due to reduced funding.

A profile of trial court caseload was again obtained through the collection of data in the superior, state, probate and juvenile courts, and is presented in this report. Because of fiscal constraints, the FY'83 caseload study methodology excluded the collection of dispositional data in the state and probate courts. However, for the first time, aggregate superior court open caseload for FY 1983 and five-year trend data for all principal trial courts are included in this report.

We invite the reader to look closely at the FY'83 activities of the Georgia judicial system as depicted in the following pages of this report. We welcome questions and comments on the work of the courts across the state as we attempt to assist in the implementation of programs to improve the administration of justice in Georgia.

Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.
Chairman
Judicial Council of Georgia

Judicial Council of Georgia

Chief Justice Harold N. Hill, Jr.
Chairman
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta

Justice Thomas O. Marshall
Vice chairman
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta

Judge Hal Bell
Senior Judge
Macon

Judge A.W. Birdsong, Jr.
Court of Appeals of Georgia
Atlanta

Judge Tom Cauthorn
State Court of Cobb County
Marietta

Judge Virgil Costley, Jr.
Juvenile Court of Newton County
Covington

Judge George W. Eisel, III
Chief Magistrate,
Hancock County
Sparta

Judge James E. Findley
Superior Courts
Atlantic Judicial Circuit
Reidsville

Judge William M. Fleming, Jr.
Superior Courts
Augusta Judicial Circuit
Augusta

Judge W.J. Forehand
Superior Courts
Tifton Judicial Circuit
Tifton

Judge George W. Harris
Chief Magistrate, Peach County
Fort Valley

Judge Francis Houston
State Court of Pierce County
Blackshear

Judge Harry Johnson, Jr.
Probate Court of Floyd County
Rome

Judge Othniel W. McGehee
Juvenile Court of Bibb County
Macon

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
Superior Courts
Middle Judicial Circuit
Sandersville

Chief Judge William L. McMurray, Jr.
Court of Appeals of Georgia
Atlanta

Judge Richard Neville
Superior Courts
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
Cumming

Judge James E. Palmour, III
Superior Courts
Northeastern Judicial Circuit
Gainesville

Judge J. Ben Spear, Jr.
Probate Court of Monroe County
Forsyth

Judge A. Blenn Taylor, Jr.
Superior Courts
Brunswick Judicial Circuit
Brunswick

Judge Curtis V. Tillman
Superior Court
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Decatur

Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.
Superior Courts
Griffin Judicial Circuit
Griffin

Judge Jere F. White
Superior Courts
Cherokee Judicial Circuit
Cartersville

Judge Osgood O. Williams
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

The Courts in Fiscal Year 1983

Events and efforts taking place within and outside of the Georgia judicial system combined during the past year to produce several significant changes for the state's judiciary. Overall, strides toward uniformity were achieved through the public endorsement of a new Georgia Constitution, which included a revised judicial article, and legislative approval of partial means to implement it. The Supreme Court pursued its duty to oversee the judiciary's development of uniform rules and procedures. Notably, these and other changes occurred as all agencies of the judicial branch faced severe fiscal constraints.

Judicial Revision/Legislation

Effective immediately following the end of FY'83, the revised judicial article provides for a unified court system composed of seven classes of courts: the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the superior courts and the limited jurisdiction state, juvenile, probate and magistrate courts. The effect of this change is to establish the state and juvenile courts as constitutional, rather than statutory courts, and to consolidate existing small claims courts, justice of the peace courts and the County Court of Echols County as magistrate courts.

The new article provides for specific improvements to be instituted by law or court rule. Such changes legislated during the Georgia General Assembly's 1983 session established uniformity among state courts (Ga. Laws 1983, p. 1419) and created the magistrate courts with uniform jurisdiction and power, rules of procedure and magistrate qualification and selection (Ga. Laws 1983, p. 884). Under the transition provisions of the revised article, the former county courts of Baldwin and Putnam counties became state courts.

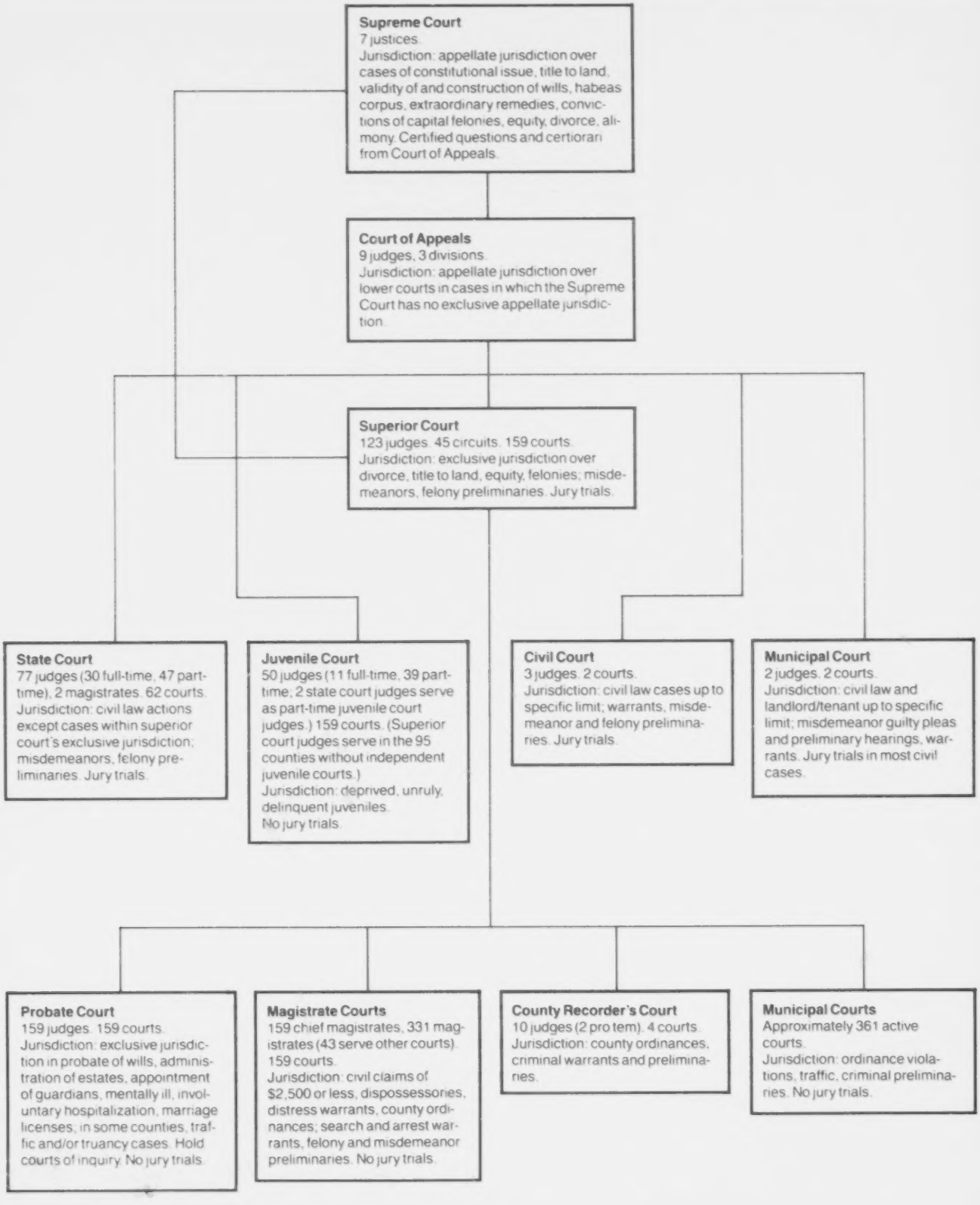
The new judicial article also charges the Supreme Court and the state's trial courts to develop uniform court rules and record-keeping rules to resolve problems of efficiency and increasing expense in the courts. The process of drafting the particular rules and procedures began in May, 1983, when the five trial court drafting committees met with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to consider rules outlining the functional operation of all courts of one class (horizontal uniformity) and those governing the interrelationships between different classes of courts (vertical uniformity).

Actions by the 1983 Session of the Georgia General Assembly also prescribed supplementary rules for procuring judicial assistance and provided for the nonpartisan election of judges. Act #442 (Ga. Laws 1983, p. 961) allows a judge of any court to take the bench in any other court on a temporary basis, provided that the transferring judge is otherwise qualified and has the approval of the presiding judge. This change is expected to greatly increase the system's flexibility in the efficient utilization of existing judicial manpower. Act #497 (Ga. Laws 1983, p. 1190) provides that justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Court of Appeals, superior courts and state courts be elected on a nonpartisan basis.

Several other court-related issues affecting court structure, salaries and funding were also addressed by the legislature. The number of judicial circuits was increased to 45 as the Appalachian Judicial Circuit was created from the existing Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit by splitting Fannin, Gilmer and Pickens counties from Cherokee and Forsyth counties. An initial superior court judge and district attorney for the Appalachian circuit were authorized to assume office on July 1, 1983, while the two superior court judges and district attorney already serving Blue Ridge remained with that circuit.

A new state court was created for Chattooga County following voter approval of a referendum on the issue in May, 1983. A second judgeship for the State Court of Gwinnett County

Georgia Court System: July 1, 1983


Supreme Court
7 justices.
Jurisdiction: appellate jurisdiction over cases of constitutional issue, title to land, validity of and construction of wills, habeas corpus, extraordinary remedies, convictions of capital felonies, equity, divorce, alimony. Certified questions and certiorari from Court of Appeals.
Court of Appeals
9 judges, 3 divisions.
Jurisdiction: appellate jurisdiction over lower courts in cases in which the Supreme Court has no exclusive appellate jurisdiction.
Superior Court
123 judges. 45 circuits. 159 courts.
Jurisdiction: exclusive jurisdiction over divorce, title to land, equity, felonies; misdemeanors, felony preliminaries. Jury trials.
State Court
77 judges (30 full-time, 47 part-time), 2 magistrates. 62 courts.
Jurisdiction: civil law actions except cases within superior court's exclusive jurisdiction; misdemeanors, felony preliminaries. Jury trials.
Juvenile Court
50 judges (11 full-time, 39 part-time; 2 state court judges serve as part-time juvenile court judges.) 159 courts. (Superior court judges serve in the 95 counties without independent juvenile courts.)
Jurisdiction: deprived, unruly, delinquent juveniles.
No jury trials.
Civil Court
3 judges. 2 courts.
Jurisdiction: civil law cases up to specific limit; warrants, misdemeanor and felony preliminaries. Jury trials.
Municipal Court
2 judges. 2 courts.
Jurisdiction: civil law and landlord/tenant up to specific limit; misdemeanor guilty pleas and preliminary hearings, warrants. Jury trials in most civil cases.
Probate Court
159 judges. 159 courts.
Jurisdiction: exclusive jurisdiction in probate of wills, administration of estates, appointment of guardians, mentally ill, involuntary hospitalization, marriage licenses; in some counties, traffic and/or truancy cases. Hold courts of inquiry. No jury trials.
Magistrate Courts
159 chief magistrates, 331 magistrates (43 serve other courts). 159 courts.
Jurisdiction: civil claims of $2,500 or less, dispossessories, distress warrants, county ordinances; search and arrest warrants, felony and misdemeanor preliminaries. No jury trials.
County Recorder's Court
10 judges (2 pro tem). 4 courts.
Jurisdiction: county ordinances, criminal warrants and preliminaries.
Municipal Courts
Approximately 361 active courts.
Jurisdiction: ordinance violations, traffic, criminal preliminaries. No jury trials.

was authorized with a four-year term beginning January 1, 1985. The legislature also created two small claims courts—for Pickens and Wilcox counties—which became magistrate courts as a result of the implementation of the new constitution.

Other legislative action increased the minimum salaries of probate court judges and superior court clerks and changed penalties and procedures in DUI cases. Both probate and clerk minimum salaries were raised approximately 16 percent, although increases were higher in the upper range of both salary schedules, where new population brackets were added. One provision of the new DUI law grants authority to courts of incorporated municipalities to impose the fine and imprisonment penalties prescribed under state law, regardless of limits set forth in municipal charters, to standardize the punishment of DUI offenders.

Five-Year Comparison for Judicial Budget (1980-1984)

Fiscal Year	Total State Appropriation	Increase	Judicial Appropriation	Increase	Percent of State Budget
1980	$2,850,152,707	$135,941,598	$17,875,192	$2,136,711	0.62%
1981	3,217,056,705	366,903,998	20,554,407	2,579,215	0.64%
1982	3,522,966,448	232,943,295	24,305,842	3,751,435	0.69%
1983	3,685,528,666	162,562,218	26,590,315	2,284,473	0.72%
1984	4,018,000,000	332,471,334	29,997,367	3,407,052	0.75%

Judicial Activities/ Recommendations

During the past year, both system-oriented activities and those particular to individual components of the state judicial system contributed to the improved operation of the courts. The State-Federal Judicial Council held its first formal meeting in June, 1983, and adopted a guideline for resolving state and federal court calendar conflicts. The Council, a voluntary association of Georgia state and federal trial and appellate court judges and attorneys headed by the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, was formed in June, 1982, to facilitate a cooperative relationship between the two court systems.

To assist judicial and court personnel in managing particular matters, the Judicial Council of Georgia issued recommendations on suggested procedures for handling *in forma pauperis* petitions and the expungement of first offender records. The former recommendation was developed in response to a 1982 law authorizing superior and state courts to investigate, on their own motion, the right of a party to a civil action to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Procedures outlined by the Council regarding first offender expungement were prepared to effectively satisfy current law pertaining to confidentiality. Legislation to further clarify the requirements of both matters was later considered by the Council.

FY'83 was also a year of new personnel. Chief Justice Harold N. Hill, Jr. replaced retiring Robert H. Jordan as head of the Georgia Supreme Court. A new chief judge of the Court of Appeals, Arnold Shulman, was elected for a two-year term beginning January 1, 1983. An administrative assistant for the fourth judicial district was selected by the superior

court judges of Dekalb County to fill that position for the first time since the district was created in 1976.

Other "firsts" for the courts included the Supreme Court's monthly news reports on criminal decisions and the Atlanta Judicial Circuit's One Trial/One Day jury service program. It was also the first year of operation of the Executive Probate Judges Council of Georgia, which is responsible for working with the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education to coordinate continuing education programs for probate judges and with probate courts to improve operations and provide assistance upon request.

Judicial Branch Appropriations

Following the judiciary's coordinated budget request for FY'84 presented by the Chief Justice to the legislature in January, the Georgia General Assembly appropriated $29,997,367 for the operation of the judicial branch. This appropriation amounted to an increase of $3.4 million, or almost 13 percent more than the final FY'83 appropriation which was amended twice during the 1983 legislative session, first through a budget reduction of $151,225 and then in supplemental appropriations adding back $130,400.

Judicial Branch Budget Units: FY '83 Funds Available and Expenditures

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Superior Courts
FUNDS AVAILABLE			
General Appropriations	$2,425,119	$2,702,951	$19,730,053
Supplemental Appropriations	(11,825)	(31,000)	60,000
Governor's Emergency Funds	0	0	15,000
Total State Funds	2,413,294	2,671,951	19,805,053
Federal Funds	0	0	130,729
Other Funds	192,257	42,730	1,148,116
Total Funds Available	2,605,551	2,714,681	21,083,898
EXPENDITURES			
Personal Services	1,936,051	2,348,465	19,166,038
Regular Operating	212,023	87,454	470,243
Travel	22,313	21,805	352,765
Publications and Printing	24,585	8,235	82,432
Equipment Purchases	76,655	104,265	13,849
Computer Charges	0	0	3,421
Real Estate Rentals	151,599	91,128	43,025
Telecommunications	38,828	35,742	13,174
Per Diem, Fees, and Contracts	142,613	16,272	132,348
Total Expenditures	$2,604,667	$2,713,366	$20,277,295

State Appropriations for the Judicial Branch
Fiscal Years 1982, 1983 and 1984

Court or Agency	FY 1982 Amended Appropriation	FY 1983 Amended Appropriation	Percent Change FY 1982-83	FY 1984 General Appropriation	Percent Change FY 1983-84
Supreme Court	$ 2,208,582	$ 2,413,294	9.3	$ 2,780,434	15.2
Court of Appeals	2,499,016	2,671,951	6.9	3,068,416	14.8
Superior Courts (Total)	17,972,417	19,790,053	10.1	22,531,919	13.9
Superior Courts & DA's	17,474,048	19,261,330	10.2	21,945,199	13.9
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council	424,371	446,539	5.2	485,674	8.8
Sentence Review Panel	73,998	82,184	11.1	101,046	23.0
Administrative Office of the Courts (Total)	744,023	781,731	5.1	713,282	-8.8
AOC Central	541,743	494,178	-8.8	414,357	-16.2
Case Counting	-0-	60,000	--	68,925	14.9
Institute of Continuing Judicial Education	202,260	227,553	12.5	230,000	1.1
Appellate Court Reports	211,000	216,000	2.4	193,100	-10.6
Board of Court Reporting	14,123	15,486	9.7	16,675	7.7
Council of Juvenile Court Judges	97,592	104,384	7.0	109,761	5.2
Judicial Administrative Districts	496,629	537,658	8.3	518,249	-3.6
Judicial Qualifications Commission	49,760	45,788	-8.0	50,471	10.2
Justice Courts Training Council	12,700	13,970	10.0	15,060	7.8
Judicial Branch Total	$24,305,842	$26,590,315	9.4	$29,997,367	12.8

Administrative Office of the Courts	Appellate Court Reports	Board of Court Reporting	Council of Juvenile Court Judges	Judicial Administrative Districts	Judicial Qualifications Commission	Justice Courts Training Council	Total
$813,731	$190,000	$15,486	$104,384	$569,658	$45,788	$13,970	$26,611,140
(32,000)	26,000	0	0	(32,000)	0	0	(20,825)
0	0	0	0	0	3,000	0	18,000
781,731	216,000	15,486	104,384	537,658	48,788	13,970	26,608,315
0	0	0	321,091	0	0	0	451,820
1,306	0	23,230	0	0	0	32,634	1,440,273
783,037	216,000	38,716	425,475	537,658	48,788	46,604	28,500,408
350,031	0	20,291	94,049	428,083	12,929	0	24,355,937
56,769	50	2,968	13,703	24,991	2,194	5,121	875,516
9,314	0	353	5,161	28,095	2,578	0	442,384
32,594	198,317	252	2,530	6,835	3,372	26,018	385,170
2,000	0	184	933	3,761	0	0	201,647
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,421
51,157	0	5,473	8,919	9,949	2,353	0	363,603
14,127	0	2,235	3,241	19,441	1,310	85	128,183
266,960	0	6,960	296,939	16,503	23,728	15,380	917,703
$782,952	$198,367	$38,716	$425,475	$537,658	$48,464	$46,604	$27,673,564

Supreme Court

Until July 1, 1983, when certain jurisdictional changes resulting from the new constitution took effect, the Supreme Court exercised appellate jurisdiction in cases involving 1) the construction of the constitution of Georgia or the U.S., or of treaties; 2) cases in which the constitutionality of a law or constitutional provision is drawn into question; 3) title to land; 4) equity; 5) the validity of or construction of wills; 6) the conviction of a capital felony; 7) habeas corpus; 8) extraordinary remedies; 9) divorce and alimony; and 10) questions certified by the Court of Appeals. A major portion of the court's workload involves consideration of petitions for certiorari.

As the state's highest appellate court, the Supreme Court exercises no original jurisdiction. Cases heard include appeals from superior courts, state courts, juvenile courts and courts of similar jurisdiction. The court also considers decisions from the Court of Appeals on certiorari. It is authorized to make orders necessary to preserve its jurisdiction, such as granting *supersedeas* and directing trial courts.

The Supreme Court is composed of seven justices elected to staggered, six-year terms. Effective with the new constitution, the justices will be elected in nonpartisan elections. Vacancies on the court may be filled by appointment of the governor or by special election.

A chief justice and a presiding justice are elected by all seven justices. The chief justice serves as the administrative head of the court and presides at oral arguments and court conferences. The presiding justice acts in the place of the chief justice when necessary and performs other duties as well.

Three agencies are charged with assisting the Supreme Court in its efforts to improve the administration of justice in the state. These agencies include the Judicial Council of Georgia/Administrative Office of the Courts, the Office of Bar Admissions (Board of Bar Examiners and Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants) and the State Bar of Georgia.

In hearing cases *en banc*, the Supreme Court almost always holds court in Atlanta. On occasion, it may hold sessions in other locations around the state. The court has three terms of court each year, beginning in September, January and April. The court hears no oral arguments in August or December.

A comparison of the Supreme Court's caseload for administrative court years 1983 and 1982 (September 1-August 31) is presented at left.

Supreme Court Caseload: 1983 and 1982

Filed

	1983	1982
Direct Appeals	701	671
Petitions for Certiorari	686	467
Habeas Corpus Applications	140	195
Applications for Discretionary Appeal	168	178
Applications for Interlocutory Appeal	49	55
Certified Questions	10	8
TOTAL	1,754	1,574

Disposed

	1983	1982
Opinions Written	423	433
Decided Without Opinion (Rule 59)	142	101
Certiorari	482	446
Granted	85	64
Denied	397	382
Habeas Corpus Applications	99	164
Granted	8	39
Denied	91	125
Interlocutory Appeals	33	42
Granted	13	23
Denied	20	19
Discretionary Appeals	137	158
Granted	41	49
Denied	96	109
Lack of Jurisdiction; Transferred to Court of Appeals Without Opinion	6	9
Other	47	43
TOTAL	1,369	1,396

Court of Appeals

Where exclusive jurisdiction is not conferred upon the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals is authorized to correct errors in cases on appeal from the same trial courts which may appeal to the Supreme Court. Examples of such cases include claims for damages, criminal cases other than capital felonies and cases involving worker's compensation and insurance claims.

The Court of Appeals is composed of nine judges and is divided into three panels of three judges each. Under the court's rules, the judges elect a chief judge who then appoints judges to preside over each of the three divisions. Any decision rendered by a division is final unless a single judge dissents, whereupon the case is considered by all nine judges. When there is an equal division of judges hearing a case *en banc*, the case is transferred to the Supreme Court.

Judges of the Court of Appeals are elected to staggered, six-year terms of office in statewide, nonpartisan elections. Like the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals holds three terms of court per year, beginning in September, January and April.

A summary of the court's caseload for calendar year 1982 is given below:

Court of Appeals Caseload: 1982

	1982
Cases Docketed	2,163
Affirmed	1,010
Reversed	260
Withdrawn	138
Dismissed	113
Transferred to Supreme Court	98
Supersedeas Bonds	14
Granted	4
Denied	10
Interlocutory Appeals	258
Granted	70
Denied	188
Discretionary Appeals	219
Granted	63
Denied	156
Certified Questions	3
Cases Pending	527
Opinions Written	1,733

Superior Courts

As Georgia's courts of general jurisdiction, the superior courts have exclusive jurisdiction over felony cases and cases involving divorce, equity and questions of land title. With the exception of certain probate and juvenile matters, the superior courts exercise concurrent jurisdiction over other cases with the limited jurisdiction courts located in the same county and/or circuit. The superior courts are authorized to correct errors made by lower courts by issuing writs of certiorari, and for some lower courts, the right to direct review by the superior courts applies.

While each of the state's 159 counties has a superior court, these courts are actually organized by judicial circuits, or groups of counties. Circuits vary in size and population and in the number of judges. From one to eight counties form the circuits, with the single-county circuits generally located in or near the several large metropolitan areas of the state. The number of superior court judges per circuit ranges from one judge in each of four circuits to eleven judges in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit. As of July 1, 1983, 123 superior court judges were serving in the state's 45 circuits.

For the purposes of administration, the judicial circuits are organized into 10 judicial administrative districts whose boundaries correspond roughly to those of Georgia's U.S. congressional districts. The superior court judges of each district elect one among their number to serve as administrative judge. The administrative judges are authorized by statute to utilize caseload and other information for management purposes, as well as to assign superior court judges, with their approval, to other counties or circuits as needed.

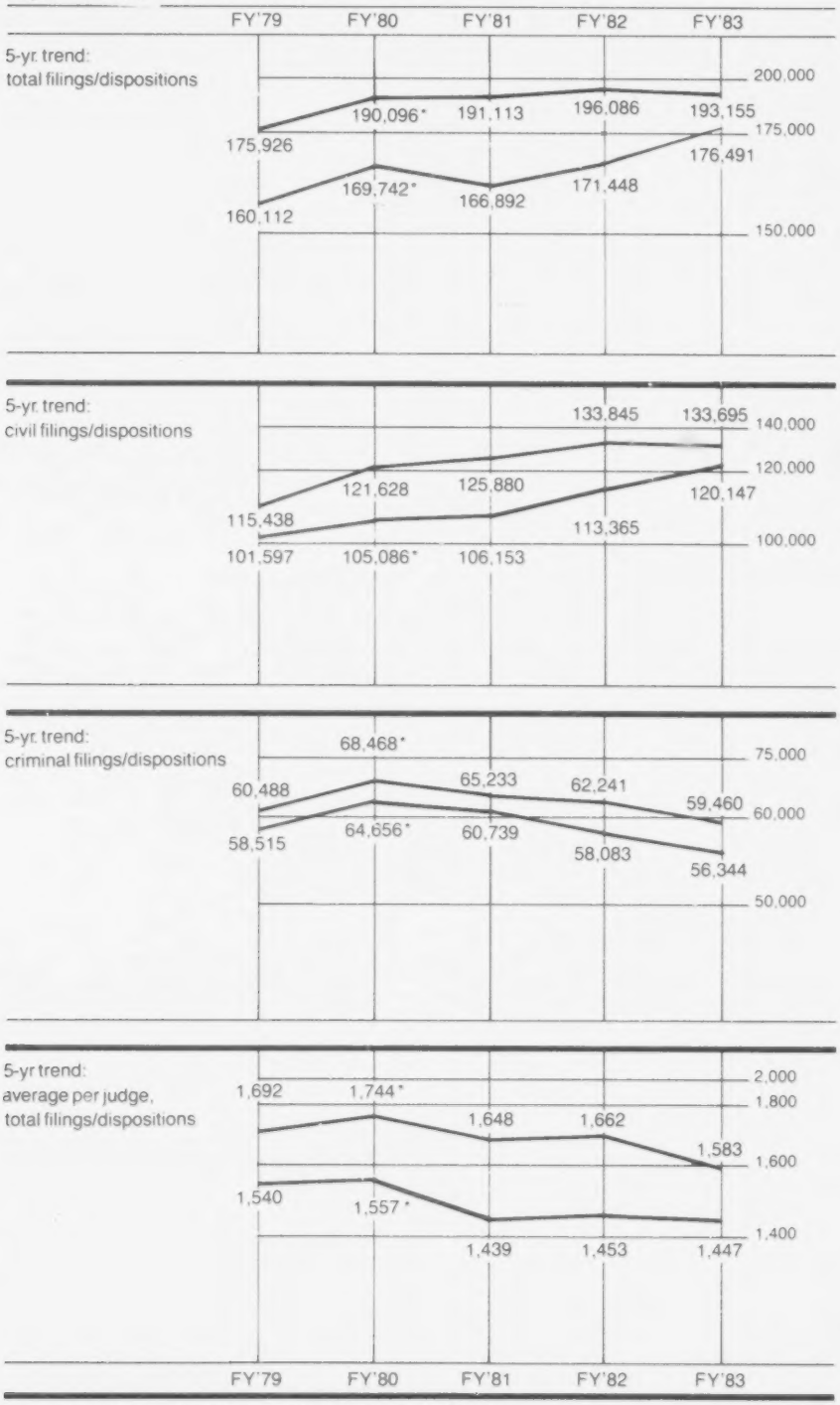
Effective with the new Georgia Constitution on July 1, 1983, all superior court judges will be elected in nonpartisan elections by the voters of each circuit to terms of four years. Certain vacancies and new judgeships may be filled by gubernatorial appointment.

Caseload data for the superior courts is presented at right. The graphs compare total, civil, criminal and per judge filings and dispositions for fiscal years 1979-1983. The table on pages 12 and 13 presents FY'83 total superior court caseload by circuit and case type.

Georgia Judicial Administrative Districts

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Superior Courts



*These FY'80 figures include estimated data for Cobb County.

Filings ——
Dispositions ——

FY 1983 Superior Court Caseload (Docket entries)

	Total Criminal		Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic	
Circuit	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Alapaha	3,307	2,819	575	459	1,395	1,117	1,337	1,243
Alcovy	1,319	1,201	475	444	798	712	46	45
Atlanta	5,570	5,437	5,567	5,437	3	0	0	0
Atlantic	862	647	545	360	138	108	179	179
Augusta	1,053	1,171	943	980	82	153	28	38
Blue Ridge	1,846	1,675	779	664	456	461	611	550
Brunswick	1,327	1,108	843	628	131	127	353	353
Chattahoochee	2,016	1,767	1,314	1,220	392	379	310	168
Cherokee	1,455	1,334	662	591	649	516	144	227
Clayton	1,182	993	1,144	964	27	22	11	7
Cobb	1,510	1,463	1,328	1,304	139	119	43	40
Conasauga	1,138	987	646	582	289	233	203	172
Cordele	1,094	1,111	409	415	679	690	6	6
Coweta	854	827	645	631	172	161	37	35
Dougherty	743	648	743	626	0	7	0	15
Douglas*	873	825	244	260	422	378	207	187
Dublin	1,187	1,093	361	323	764	737	62	33
Eastern	1,767	2,002	1,731	1,906	36	96	0	0
Flint	954	842	429	376	487	437	38	29
Griffin	1,507	1,485	669	751	581	496	257	238
Gwinnett	695	836	668	809	14	15	13	12
Houston	326	308	288	270	38	38	0	0
Lookout Mountain	2,499	2,322	796	656	1,389	1,397	314	269
Macon	1,553	1,653	1,265	1,379	258	251	30	23
Middle	564	590	556	586	8	4	0	0
Mountain	709	564	367	345	234	147	108	72
Northeastern	1,541	1,517	620	659	409	384	512	474
Northern	1,170	803	482	267	669	511	19	25
Ocmulgee	1,996	1,761	1,155	1,017	825	731	16	13
Oconee	960	954	444	450	511	498	5	6
Ogeechee	447	427	442	421	5	6	0	0
Pataula	1,188	1,043	499	466	529	410	160	167
Piedmont	1,257	1,271	290	318	489	472	478	481
Rockdale*	524	451	233	193	219	207	72	51
Rome	1,890	1,971	485	522	1,295	1,365	110	84
South Georgia	914	1,037	801	885	97	136	16	16
Southern	1,253	1,180	1,123	1,032	130	148	0	0
Southwestern	629	593	465	439	152	144	12	10
Stone Mountain	2,343	2,486	2,341	2,484	2	2	0	0
Tallapoosa	1,001	829	364	307	452	360	185	162
Tifton	768	626	452	399	300	224	16	3
Toombs	2,410	2,348	333	303	1,107	1,067	970	978
Waycross	60	674	476	486	164	169	20	19
Western	599	665	545	599	39	45	15	21
TOTAL	59,460	56,344	35,542	34,213	16,975	15,680	6,943	6,451
AVERAGE PER JUDGE**	487	462	291	280	139	129	57	53

*The Douglas and Rockdale judicial circuits became effective 1/1/83.

**Based on 122 superior court judges.

Total Civil		General Civil		Domestic Relations		Independent Motions		Total Caseload		Total Open
Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	
1,209	841	487	333	504	395	218	113	4,516	3,660	4,244
2,408	1,884	647	525	939	762	822	597	3,727	3,085	3,606
12,353	11,584	4,743	3,967	5,971	5,601	1,639	2,016	17,923	17,021	13,661
2,221	2,400	604	707	1,354	1,366	263	327	3,083	3,047	1,611
5,033	4,056	990	705	3,309	2,724	734	627	6,086	5,227	7,231
2,404	2,067	753	557	1,292	1,223	359	287	4,250	3,742	4,092
3,162	2,759	1,000	812	1,948	1,744	214	203	4,489	3,867	4,515
5,424	3,886	1,351	698	3,317	2,752	756	436	7,440	5,653	8,346
2,703	3,345	846	993	1,035	1,224	822	1,128	4,158	4,679	4,716
3,169	3,379	663	696	2,212	2,427	294	256	4,351	4,372	2,872
7,708	6,805	1,162	885	5,349	4,932	1,197	988	9,218	8,268	8,033
2,864	2,792	839	871	1,493	1,426	532	495	4,002	3,779	3,388
1,842	1,856	530	593	894	841	418	422	2,936	2,967	1,171
3,957	4,064	1,199	1,015	1,980	2,358	778	691	4,811	4,891	4,505
2,265	1,777	505	354	1,321	941	439	482	3,008	2,425	2,985
2,302	2,722	1,126	1,384	683	701	493	637	3,175	3,547	3,966
1,815	1,464	714	658	660	560	441	246	3,002	2,557	2,836
4,182	3,251	1,264	855	2,414	2,136	504	260	5,949	5,253	6,262
2,174	1,769	970	7[illegible]	779	707	425	332	3,128	2,611	2,867
2,722	2,590	740	637	1,394	1,417	588	536	4,229	4,075	2,786
3,850	3,682	665	586	2,189	2,135	996	961	4,545	4,518	2,193
1,351	1,119	299	225	818	737	234	157	1,677	1,427	1,275
3,223	3,005	1,021	952	1,600	1,554	602	499	5,722	5,327	3,490
3,995	4,054	766	767	2,726	2,879	503	408	5,548	5,707	2,828
2,526	1,931	852	631	1,150	972	524	328	3,090	2,521	3,827
1,733	1,868	481	547	970	956	282	365	2,442	2,432	1,486
2,409	2,507	781	858	1,129	1,117	499	532	3,950	4,024	1,518
1,857	1,633	681	605	792	678	384	350	3,027	2,436	2,753
3,790	2,759	1,377	956	1,409	1,114	1,004	689	5,786	4,520	4,452
1,587	1,247	600	503	589	501	398	243	2,547	2,201	1,596
2,118	2,233	640	679	1,210	1,253	268	301	2,565	2,660	1,418
1,360	1,035	632	549	491	343	237	143	2,548	2,078	2,357
1,946	1,556	652	495	786	668	508	393	3,203	2,827	2,231
1,060	554	475	252	376	255	209	47	1,584	1,005	2,474
2,683	3,446	961	1,383	928	1,389	794	674	4,573	5,417	4,112
1,770	1,538	586	584	781	657	403	297	2,684	2,575	1,640
3,505	2,727	1,084	858	1,651	1,439	770	430	4,758	3,907	4,023
2,082	1,779	804	720	987	861	291	198	2,711	2,372	1,716
8,320	7,612	2,146	1,733	5,276	5,123	898	756	10,663	10,098	11,148
2,898	2,187	1,078	850	1,088	861	732	476	3,899	3,016	3,705
2,115	1,449	564	499	1,029	744	522	206	2,883	2,075	3,916
1,121	938	325	285	529	436	267	217	3,531	3,286	1,966
2,669	2,290	831	828	1,582	1,283	256	179	3,329	2,964	2,471
1,810	1,707	620	543	868	866	322	298	2,409	2,372	1,408
133,695	120,147	40,054	34,863	69,802	65,058	23,839	20,226	193,155	176,491	163,696
1,096	985	328	286	572	533	195	166	1,583	1,447	1,342

State Courts

State courts were first established as a general class of limited jurisdiction courts in 1970, when the legislature designated certain other existing, county-funded courts as state courts. Through fiscal year 1983, state courts generally exercised countywide jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases in which the superior courts did not retain exclusive jurisdiction. Some variation in jurisdiction existed since state courts had originally been created by separate statutes.

Effective July 1, 1983, a new statute adopted by the 1983 General Assembly to implement the judicial article of the revised Georgia Constitution provides for uniform jurisdiction for state courts. Under the new judicial article, these courts became constitutional courts. State courts will continue to exercise criminal jurisdiction over trials of nonfelony criminal cases, but have been granted civil jurisdiction over the trial of all general civil actions regardless of the amount claimed, unless exclusive jurisdiction is vested in the superior courts.

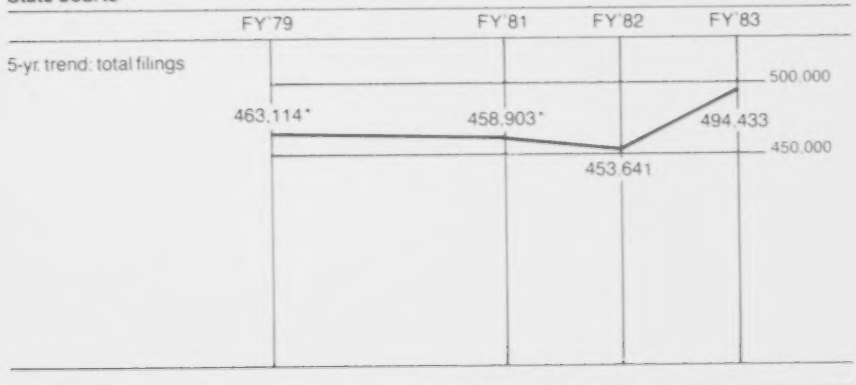
Uniform state court jurisdiction also includes hearing applications for and issuing search and arrest warrants, holding courts of inquiry and punishing contempts by fine ($500 or less) and/or imprisonment (20 days or less). Additionally, state courts have been granted appellate jurisdiction to review decisions of lower courts as may be provided by law.

At the end of FY'83, 59 state courts were operating in 60 counties. (The state's only multi-county state court serves both Cherokee and Forsyth counties.) Of the 77 judges presiding, 29 were full-time state court judges, while 48 served part-time. Part-time judges are authorized to practice law in courts other than their own.

Under the new uniformity statute, all state court judges will be elected to four-year terms. While state court judges were previously elected in partisan elections, another 1983 act requires nonpartisan elections for state court judges after July 1, 1983.

During the past year, statutory and constitutional changes occurred which affected several state courts. The legislature created the State Court of Chattooga County, served by a full-time judge and part-time solicitor, which became operational after the end of the fiscal year. The General Assembly provided a second judgeship for the State Court of Gwinnett County, although it will not take effect until January 1, 1985. A provision of the new judicial article classified the existing county courts located in Baldwin and Putnam counties, which exercised countywide jurisdiction over criminal cases, as state courts effective July 1,

State Courts



*Filings estimated for the State Court of DeKalb County.
Data unavailable for FY'80.

Filings ——

1983. Abolished by the legislature in 1982, the State Court of Polk County ceased operations on December 31, 1982, and its pending cases were transferred to that county's superior court.

Presented at left is a comparison of total state court filings for fiscal years 1979-1983. FY'83 filings by filing type are listed in the following table.

FY 1983 State Court Caseload (Docket entries)

	Total Criminal	Total Civil	Total Cases Filed
Appling	645	52	697
Baldwin*	4,034	0	4,034
Bibb	5,873	1,043	6,916
Bryan	2,351	51	2,402
Bulloch	2,305	90	2,395
Burke	2,474	171	2,645
Candler	1,927	14	1,941
Carroll	5,672	947	6,619
Chatham	4,289	5,309	9,598
Cherokee/ Forsyth	7,339	1,313	8,652
Clarke	1,344	371	1,715
Clayton	18,719	5,048	23,767
Clinch	904	43	947
Cobb	39,148	14,009	53,157
Coffee	2,145	94	2,239
Colquitt	2,640	40	2,680
Coweta	6,600	385	6,985
Decatur	2,238	93	2,331
DeKalb	11,107	33,911	45,018
Dougherty	9,072	4,812	13,884
Early	1,396	45	1,441
Effingham	1,727	85	1,812
Elbert	1,346	30	1,376
Emanuel	4,288	150	4,438
Evans	482	20	502
Fulton	48,264	80,268	128,532
Glynn	9,012	3,265	12,277
Grady	1,778	37	1,815
Gwinnett	4,249	4,875	9,124
Habersham	1,679	146	1,825
Hall	7,945	1,219	9,164
Houston	7,294	1,474	8,768
Jackson	7,982	230	8,212
Jefferson	1,777	91	1,868
Jenkins	893	126	1,019
Johnson	385	45	430
Liberty	8,928	103	9,031
Long	674	16	690
Lowndes	12,937	263	13,200
Macon	613	49	662
Miller	931	30	961
Mitchell	1,851	12	1,863
Muscogee	7,010	378	7,388
Pierce	612	53	665
Putnam*	908	0	908
Richmond	23,116	588	23,704
Screven	1,379	42	1,421
Spalding	2,310	194	2,504
Stephens	966	92	1,058
Sumter	2,509	221	2,730
Tattnall	1,661	66	1,727
Thomas	3,330	63	3,393
Tift	6,343	567	6,910
Toombs	1,768	138	1,906
Treutlen	1,861	34	1,895
Troup	7,130	364	7,494
Walker	2,882	111	2,993
Ware	3,913	213	4,126
Washington	1,132	38	1,170
Wayne	876	70	946
Worth	2,823	87	2,910
TOTAL	330,640	163,793	494,433

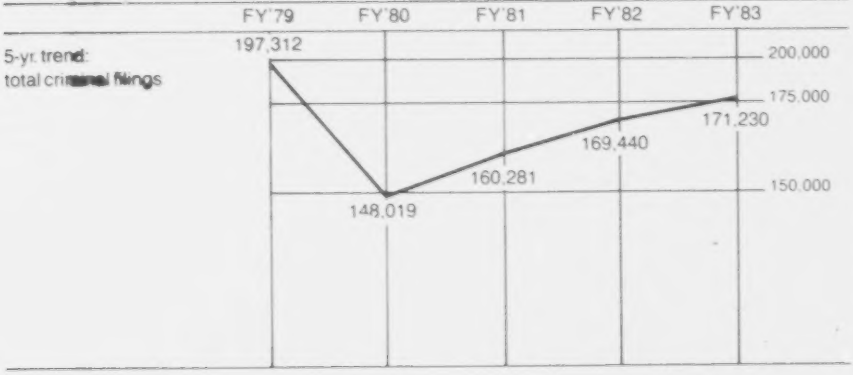
*County courts which became state courts on 7/1/83

Probate Courts

Georgia's probate courts exercise jurisdiction in the probate of wills, the administration of estates, the appointment of guardians and the involuntary hospitalization of incapacitated adults and other dependent individuals. Probate judges are also authorized to perform certain administrative functions, such as issuing marriage licenses, pistol permits and delayed birth certificates.

Other duties for which probate judges may be responsible, depending on the particular county, include holding habeas corpus hearings or courts of inquiry, supervising local elections or hearing cases under the Compulsory School Attendance Act. Probate courts may also hear traffic cases and try violations of state game and fish laws.

Probate Courts



There are 159 probate judges in Georgia, each serving a single county. Each probate judge is elected on a partisan basis in general elections by the voters of the county to a term of four years. In most counties, a vacancy in office is filled through special election ordered by an official serving as interim judge. In other counties, designated or appointed persons fill the vacancy until the next succeeding general election.

Georgia law requires probate judges to fulfill an annual training requirement by attending seminars conducted by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education in conjunction with the Executive Probate Judges Council. The Council was created in 1982 as a state agency with the purpose of advising the Institute on matters concerning continuing education for probate judges.

At its 1983 session, the Georgia General Assembly approved increases in both probate court costs and minimum salaries for probate judges. Cost increases varied between 10 percent and 50 percent, with the larger increases generally provided for the lower costs. Salary increases ranged from almost 10 percent to 20 percent. Monthly salary supplements for probate judges with election or traffic duties were also raised by $50.

A comparison of total criminal filings for those probate courts exercising criminal jurisdiction is presented at left for fiscal years 1979-1983. The table on pages 17-19 lists the FY'83 total criminal filings by county as well as the civil caseload of 121 probate courts for which data was submitted.

FY 1983 Probate Court Caseload (Docket entries filed)

County	Total Criminal	Total Civil	Administration	No Administration Necessary	Probate	Guardianship	Year's Support	Habeas Corpus	Hospitalization	Total Cases Filed
Appling		·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Atkinson		57	15	10	23	2	5	1	1	57
Bacon	421	34	8	0	14	3	0	0	9	455
Baker	453	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	
Baldwin		547	28	9	75	99	1	0	335	547
Banks	2,060	40	13	0	22	2	3	0	0	2,100
Barrow	780	115	13	9	38	9	4	3	39	895
Bartow	5,000	263	24	15	114	20	8	0	82	5,263
Ben Hill	419	70	9	7	42	9	0	0	3	489
Berrien	704	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	
Bibb		710	93	57	416	46	41	0	57	710
Bleckley	925	36	4	1	23	5	3	0	0	961
Brantley	1,486	21	0	0	14	2	5	0	0	1,507
Brooks	1,493	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	
Bryan		52	6	3	23	6	2	0	12	52
Bulloch		·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Burke		91	14	9	54	10	4	0	0	91
Butts	2,934	71	16	3	38	9	5	0	0	3,005
Calhoun	521	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	
Camden	4,012	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	
Candler		59	2	8	28	14	1	0	6	59
Carroll		·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Catoosa	7,097	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	
Charlton	462	34	14	2	11	4	1	0	2	496
Chatham		1,797	108	116	1,086	293	94	25	75	1,797
Chattahoochee	345	5	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	350
Chattooga	2,029	93	15	1	61	7	9	0	0	2,122
Cherokee		167	24	12	96	20	9	0	6	167
Clarke		343	50	18	136	42	6	0	91	343
Clay	427	14	1	0	13	0	0	0	0	441
Clayton		572	76	37	208	91	58	0	102	572
Clinch		39	2	2	26	8	1	0	0	39
Cobb		1,658	192	62	705	355	117	7	220	1,658
Coffee		123	26	17	57	18	5	0	0	123
Colquitt		253	30	19	114	22	16	0	52	253
Columbia	2,672	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	
Cook	2,666	67	14	6	24	6	3	0	14	2,733
Coweta		295	37	7	140	36	27	0	48	295
Crawford	1,660	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	
Crisp	3,274	94	7	11	66	3	7	0	0	3,368
Dade	2,931	21	4	2	12	2	0	0	1	2,952
Dawson	868	28	4	2	13	1	2	0	6	896
Decatur		100	18	7	35	13	3	0	24	100
DeKalb		3,788	697	210	1,443	681	330	5	422	3,788
Dodge	584	61	7	3	31	10	5	0	5	645
Dooly	1,932	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	
Dougherty		·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Douglas	6,119	311	23	19	196	34	29	0	10	6,430
Early		·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Echols		·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Effingham		128	12	0	60	13	9	0	34	128
Elbert		·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Emanuel		112	35	9	53	13	2	0	0	112
Evans		32	6	2	15	7	2	0	0	32

FY 1983 Probate Court Caseload (Docket entries filed)

County	Total Criminal	Total Civil	Administration	No Administration Necessary	Probate	Guardianship	Year's Support	Habeas Corpus	Hospitalization	Total Cases Filed
Fannin	744	75	30	9	20	8	8	0	0	819
Fayette	1,949	87	8	8	52	11	8	0	0	2,036
Floyd	5,307	480	40	24	199	45	8	0	164	5,787
Forsyth		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Franklin	3,826	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Fulton		3,026	343	323	1,456	752	128	0	24	3,026
Gilmer	2,329	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Glascock	143	13	0	1	9	1	2	0	0	156
Glynn		275	6	16	144	37	15	0	57	275
Gordon	4,305	115	18	7	63	23	4	0	0	4,420
Grady		109	21	13	42	10	2	0	21	109
Greene	2,605	48	2	2	27	6	1	0	10	2,653
Gwinnett		593	67	17	273	121	52	0	63	593
Habersham		124	12	6	65	10	4	0	27	124
Hall		324	29	12	204	43	15	0	21	324
Hancock	1,141	19	1	0	9	2	1	0	6	1,160
Haralson	2,602	116	18	3	39	8	9	0	39	2,718
Harris	1,887	76	7	5	51	7	5	0	1	1,963
Hart	367	105	13	9	64	6	3	0	10	472
Heard	848	52	30	0	15	1	2	0	4	900
Henry	5,861	203	25	10	105	51	11	1	0	6,064
Houston		312	40	24	158	78	12	0	0	312
Irwin	197	119	18	30	50	15	6	0	0	316
Jackson		110	14	10	67	14	5	0	0	110
Jasper	782	31	5	4	17	4	1	0	0	813
Jeff Davis	727	35	2	1	21	5	6	0	0	762
Jefferson		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Jenkins		48	7	4	23	3	1	0	10	48
Johnson		95	17	2	50	5	3	0	18	95
Jones	2,048	106	10	7	40	14	5	0	30	2,154
Lamar	1,404	54	8	9	33	2	2	0	0	1,458
Lanier	548	36	2	1	13	9	0	1	10	564
Laurens	4,836	87	5	8	30	10	8	0	26	4,923
Lee	2,000	35	8	4	16	5	0	0	2	2,035
Liberty		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lincoln	466	25	5	0	16	2	2	0	0	491
Long		11	3	0	5	0	3	0	0	11
Lowndes		279	68	17	135	44	15	0	0	279
Lumpkin	992	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Macon		75	12	1	36	10	1	2	13	75
Madison	962	92	10	6	41	16	3	0	16	1,054
Marion	1,033	20	2	4	10	2	2	0	0	1,053
McDuffie	2,774	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
McIntosh	2,183	43	12	1	18	4	5	0	3	2,226
Meriwether	2,361	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Miller		58	4	5	31	6	4	0	8	58
Mitchell		96	29	2	57	6	2	0	0	96
Monroe	12,170	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Montgomery	451	39	6	4	19	4	3	0	3	490
Morgan	2,824	70	14	4	36	9	2	2	3	2,894
Murray	2,265	163	27	11	60	26	24	0	15	2,428
Muscogee		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Newton	3,708	199	15	9	87	30	7	1	50	3,907
Oconee	1,330	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	

FY 1983 Probate Court Caseload (Docket entries filed)

County	Total Criminal	Total Civil	Administration	No Administration Necessary	Probate	Guardianship	Year's Support	Habeas Corpus	Hospitalization	Total Cases Filed
Oglethorpe	698	58	13	9	28	4	2	0	2	756
Paulding	1,053	148	19	4	50	19	12	0	44	1,201
Peach	1,428	101	16	5	41	7	4	0	28	1,529
Pickens	1,272	93	12	10	26	3	5	0	37	1,365
Pierce		60	5	2	27	6	6	0	14	60
Pike	1,148	36	8	2	17	3	0	0	6	1,184
Polk	733	257	10	7	96	16	16	0	112	990
Pulaski	424	47	9	7	26	5	0	0	0	471
Putnam		81	8	5	30	6	2	0	30	81
Quitman	397	16	2	1	10	0	0	0	3	413
Rabun	317	64	5	8	39	11	1	0	0	381
Randolph	754	39	4	2	32	1	0	0	0	793
Richmond		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rockdale	3,969	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Schley	92	15	4	1	10	0	0	0	0	107
Screven		69	12	3	36	10	5	0	3	69
Seminole	2,728	76	20	15	26	5	3	0	7	2,804
Spalding		429	46	41	166	47	26	3	100	429
Stephens		142	25	4	54	9	2	0	48	142
Stewart	168	19	2	1	13	2	1	0	0	187
Sumter		99	16	3	80	0	0	0	0	99
Talbot	1,415	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Taliaferro	868	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Tattnall		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Taylor	549	47	2	0	16	4	0	0	25	596
Telfair	720	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Terrell	697	41	6	7	21	4	2	1	0	738
Thomas		422	20	6	105	19	1	0	271	422
Tift		153	30	8	72	14	4	0	25	153
Toombs		151	6	17	59	13	10	0	46	151
Towns	330	41	5	4	26	5	1	0	0	371
Treutlen		20	6	1	9	2	1	0	1	20
Troup		252	18	16	116	17	7	0	78	252
Turner	2,264	69	9	4	39	9	8	0	0	2,333
Twiggs	613	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Union	389	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Upson	3,402	188	12	16	86	21	8	0	45	3,590
Walker		247	16	11	140	57	23	0	0	247
Walton	2,824	159	24	16	71	15	9	0	24	2,983
Ware		485	37	20	109	20	11	261	27	485
Warren	260	36	3	0	25	3	2	0	3	296
Washington		103	9	6	52	8	3	0	25	103
Wayne		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Webster	301	39	8	5	16	6	4	0	0	340
Wheeler	720	19	1	2	14	1	1	0	0	739
White	501	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Whitfield	3,991	391	42	19	143	26	15	0	146	4,382
Wilcox	480	24	0	2	18	3	1	0	0	504
Wilkes	709	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Wilkinson	473	60	7	9	24	6	0	1	13	533
Worth		102	12	8	43	16	5	0	18	102

*Data not submitted

Juvenile Courts

The juvenile court's exclusive original jurisdiction extends to cases involving delinquent children alleged to have committed noncapital offenses and unruly children under the age of 17, deprived children under the age of 18 and juvenile traffic offenders under the age of 16. In addition, the juvenile court has jurisdiction in custody proceedings referred from the superior court and in cases involving the termination of parental rights and enlistment in the military services and consent to marriage for minors. Appeals from the juvenile court in all cases of final judgment are to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

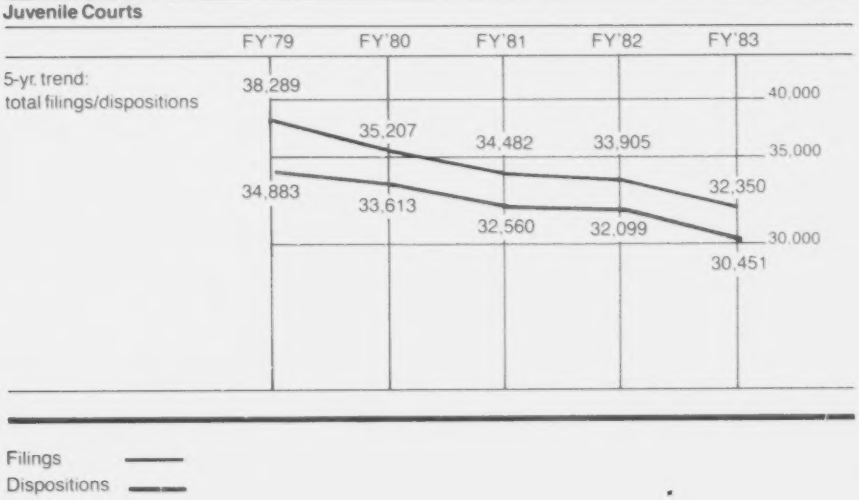
With the exception of the juvenile court judge in Floyd County who is an elected official, juvenile court judges are generally appointed for six-year terms by the superior court judges of their county or circuit. At the end of fiscal year 1983, there were 11 full-time juvenile court judges and 39 part-time judges serving in the state's 62 counties having separate juvenile courts.

Through the end of FY'83, separate juvenile courts were those created in counties with a population of at least 50,000 (except Richmond County). In the 95 counties with a population of less than 50,000 where juvenile courts had not been established, superior court judges or their designated referees heard juvenile cases.

During the year, the part-time juvenile court judgeships in Bartow and Gwinnett counties were made full-time. (A judge's part-time status permits him or her to practice law in addition to the office's official duties.) Of the 50 judges serving the separate juvenile courts, two served as both the juvenile and state court judge.

Statewide total juvenile court filings and dispositions are compared st left for fiscal years 1979-1983. Juvenile court caseload for FY'83 is presented by county in the table on pages 21-23.

Juvenile Courts



FY 1983 Juvenile Court Caseload (Number of children)

County	Delinquent		Unruly		Traffic		Deprived		Special Proceedings		Total	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Appling	55	51	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	53
Atkinson	11	12	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	13
Bacon	12	12	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	1	15	16
Baker	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	4
Baldwin	64	63	4	4	0	0	24	24	0	0	92	91
Banks	13	12	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	20	19
Barrow	65	55	10	8	4	3	36	31	0	0	115	97
Bartow	283	268	107	96	4	3	140	118	19	15	553	500
Ben Hill	44	52	0	0	0	0	15	21	0	0	59	73
Berrien	58	58	5	5	0	0	3	3	0	0	66	66
Bibb	689	689	126	120	3	3	120	117	118	96	1,056	1,025
Bleckley	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Brantley	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0
Brooks	14	11	1	1	0	0	6	5	2	3	23	20
Bryan	37	37	16	16	3	3	5	5	0	0	61	61
Bulloch	57	54	8	6	2	3	16	14	5	4	88	81
Burke	43	23	0	0	0	0	14	11	0	0	57	34
Butts	12	9	0	0	0	0	3	1	12	9	27	19
Calhoun	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
Camden	105	61	36	23	10	5	12	10	3	1	166	100
Candler	7	7	2	2	0	0	3	3	0	0	12	12
Carroll	93	90	14	13	5	5	50	36	10	2	172	146
Catoosa	88	77	14	7	14	11	26	18	6	6	148	119
Charlton	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	7
Chatham	1,268	1,121	254	248	72	63	203	192	91	87	1,888	1,711
Chattahoochee	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
Chattooga	37	36	13	11	0	0	25	25	1	0	76	72
Cherokee	169	116	75	31	15	10	98	61	6	1	363	219
Clarke	222	219	33	33	0	1	10	11	89	88	354	352
Clay	7	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	14
Clayton	696	540	306	260	52	36	196	173	135	109	1,385	1,118
Clinch	8	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	10
Cobb	1,077	1,095	543	539	64	61	207	188	96	105	1,987	1,988
Coffee	48	54	0	0	8	7	4	3	17	17	77	81
Colquitt	105	95	18	19	0	0	55	50	6	2	184	166
Columbia	85	95	39	37	2	0	0	0	21	21	147	153
Cook	60	2	7	7	0	0	7	7	0	0	74	66
Coweta	168	170	34	35	13	13	55	58	33	31	303	307
Crawford	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Crisp	56	55	22	19	2	2	19	14	2	2	101	92
Dade	19	12	2	2	0	0	12	6	9	9	42	29
Dawson	11	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	15	8
Decatur	43	45	2	2	1	1	4	4	3	3	53	55
DeKalb	1,868	1,631	747	573	70	53	450	403	13	12	3,148	2,672
Dodge	22	22	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	24
Dooly	11	11	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	14	14
Dougherty	589	573	4	1	5	7	107	105	0	0	705	686
Douglas	220	184	42	32	122	117	56	41	15	13	455	387
Early	56	39	4	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	61	43
Echols	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Effingham	25	24	12	10	0	0	5	4	3	3	45	41
Elbert	45	34	3	0	5	0	17	12	6	2	76	48
Emanuel	23	23	4	4	0	0	43	43	0	0	70	70
Evans	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	20	23

FY 1983 Juvenile Court Caseload (Number of children)

County	Delinquent		Unruly		Traffic		Deprived		Special Proceedings		Total	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Fannin	12	13	4	4	1	1	12	12	6	6	35	36
Fayette	89	89	10	11	3	3	13	8	5	5	120	116
Floyd	303	284	157	158	30	30	89	61	34	24	613	557
Forsyth	110	66	24	20	5	6	33	16	1	1	173	109
Franklin	10	7	0	0	1	1	4	3	0	0	15	11
Fulton	3,106	3,125	522	530	148	136	546	573	101	93	4,423	4,457
Gilmer	34	29	11	7	2	2	7	1	0	0	54	39
Glascock	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Glynn	338	346	110	112	15	14	25	23	9	7	497	502
Gordon	167	159	77	77	11	11	55	54	23	18	333	319
Grady	37	29	2	1	0	0	5	3	0	0	44	33
Greene	5	11	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	10	15
Gwinnett	284	377	95	144	22	21	112	119	115	134	628	795
Habersham	17	12	5	0	0	0	10	1	0	0	32	13
Hall	230	240	130	131	12	12	47	42	24	24	443	449
Hancock	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Haralson	33	34	2	2	0	0	17	16	0	0	52	52
Harris	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
Hart	22	21	1	1	1	1	15	12	0	0	39	35
Heard	9	8	0	0	0	0	10	10	1	1	20	19
Henry	94	96	3	3	2	2	16	18	14	15	129	134
Houston	121	93	12	12	1	1	21	27	0	0	155	133
Irwin	23	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	23
Jackson	30	15	2	2	1	1	24	16	0	0	57	34
Jasper	6	5	0	0	0	0	7	6	0	0	13	11
Jeff Davis	32	34	5	4	1	1	3	1	9	6	50	46
Jefferson	24	24	3	3	0	0	4	4	0	0	31	31
Jenkins	5	4	1	1	0	0	5	4	0	0	11	9
Johnson	7	7	2	2	0	0	8	8	0	0	17	17
Jones	4	14	0	2	0	0	11	39	0	0	15	55
Lamar	8	6	1	1	0	0	3	3	8	7	20	17
Lanier	37	36	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	43	42
Laurens	88	88	8	8	0	0	20	20	0	0	116	116
Lee	16	14	11	11	14	13	1	1	10	10	52	49
Liberty	152	142	79	78	1	1	40	32	1	0	273	253
Lincoln	5	5	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	9	9
Long	17	9	1	6	1	1	2	1	0	0	21	17
Lowndes	182	173	6	5	1	1	78	76	0	0	267	255
Lumpkin	23	17	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	26	18
Macon	46	48	2	3	0	0	19	22	0	1	67	74
Madison	20	15	1	1	6	2	3	2	0	0	30	20
Marion	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
McDuffie	55	52	1	1	0	0	2	2	10	10	68	65
McIntosh	24	24	7	7	0	0	3	2	0	0	34	33
Meriwether	34	34	4	3	2	2	4	4	1	1	45	44
Miller	31	31	2	2	0	0	4	4	0	0	37	37
Mitchell	35	38	1	1	0	0	5	2	0	0	41	41
Monroe	7	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	6	18	13
Montgomery	2	2	0	0	0	0	17	17	0	0	19	19
Morgan	16	16	4	4	0	0	11	11	0	0	31	31
Murray	55	27	87	30	1	1	37	0	0	0	180	58
Muscogee	1,242	1,214	491	490	105	103	215	203	212	187	2,265	2,197
Newton	226	214	62	61	10	11	148	129	26	17	472	432
Oconee	5	6	1	1	1	1	6	6	0	0	13	14

FY 1983 Juvenile Court Caseload (Number of children)

County	Delinquent		Unruly		Traffic		Deprived		Special Proceedings		Total	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Oglethorpe	7	5	1	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	11	8
Paulding	30	30	2	2	1	1	20	18	1	0	54	51
Peach	30	32	9	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	40	42
Pickens	36	32	21	23	5	4	5	5	0	0	67	64
Pierce	12	12	0	1	1	1	2	5	0	0	15	19
Pike	11	11	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	15	15
Polk	55	68	2	3	2	3	15	13	2	2	76	89
Pulaski	16	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	19	18
Putnam	8	8	8	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	19	11
Quitman	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	5
Rabun	14	3	0	0	1	0	6	1	0	0	21	4
Randolph	26	22	0	0	0	0	9	7	0	0	35	29
Richmond	790	785	324	317	38	36	14	15	11	11	1,177	1,164
Rockdale	182	189	64	64	2	2	40	40	26	27	314	322
Schley	14	18	5	7	0	0	5	6	3	3	27	34
Screven	24	22	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	25	23
Seminole	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Spalding	251	252	100	102	0	0	58	56	6	5	415	415
Stephens	17	12	3	3	0	0	10	1	1	0	31	16
Stewart	31	32	4	5	1	1	1	2	0	0	37	40
Sumter	91	93	32	32	3	2	6	8	0	0	132	135
Talbot	1	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	5
Taliaferro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tattnall	44	39	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	49	43
Taylor	3	6	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	9
Telfair	15	15	6	6	0	0	4	4	0	0	25	25
Terrell	17	17	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	21	21
Thomas	159	160	51	46	6	5	14	10	29	23	259	244
Tift	188	163	61	39	1	0	11	10	0	0	261	212
Toombs	41	41	4	4	1	1	9	9	0	0	55	55
Towns	1	5	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	4	6
Treutlen	7	7	4	4	0	0	18	18	0	0	29	29
Troup	378	398	6	6	0	0	89	74	0	0	473	478
Turner	5	4	1	1	0	0	5	4	0	0	11	9
Twiggs	6	16	4	7	0	0	7	23	0	0	17	46
Union	4	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	4	1	13	10
Upson	50	51	5	5	0	0	17	15	0	0	72	71
Walker	127	122	38	31	11	10	30	33	0	4	206	200
Walton	285	272	113	113	48	46	148	132	58	32	652	595
Ware*												
Warren	7	8	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	8	9
Washington	37	40	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	40	43
Wayne	48	55	8	10	0	0	13	20	0	0	69	85
Webster	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wheeler	12	12	2	2	0	0	11	11	0	0	25	25
White	13	16	0	0	3	1	6	2	0	0	22	19
Whitfield	280	265	201	203	18	22	123	130	68	65	690	685
Wilcox	8	8	7	7	0	0	15	15	0	0	30	30
Wilkes	8	8	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	10	10
Wilkinson	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Worth	45	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	34
TOTAL	19,677	18,771	5,566	5,193	1,026	933	4,516	4,150	1,565	1,404	32,350	30,451

*Data unavailable.

Other Courts

Included in the 'other courts' category through the end of FY'83 were justice of the peace courts, small claims courts, certain special courts exercising jurisdiction countywide and courts serving incorporated municipalities. Along with the four major trial courts, these local limited jurisdiction courts operate to form the Georgia judicial system. While the geographic and subject matter jurisdictions of these different courts vary, changes resulting from the provisions of the new judicial article reclassified many of them to provide for uniformity beginning with the 1984 fiscal year.

Prior to revision, the constitution authorized **justices of the peace** to hear civil actions arising in their respective militia districts which involved contracts or damages to personal property for which the amount claimed did not exceed $200, except where the limit had been raised by local constitutional amendment. Extending throughout the county, their criminal jurisdiction authorized justices of the peace to issue search and arrest warrants and to hold criminal commitment hearings. Additional powers included hearing dispossessory actions, performing marriages, administering oaths, taking affidavits and levying fines for contempt.

Established by statute, **small claims courts** retained jurisdiction similar to that of justice courts, although they usually had higher civil jurisdictional limits, and not all small claims courts were vested with criminal jurisdiction. Rather than creating a separate small claims court, some counties (Cobb, DeKalb and Fulton) have a small claims division within their state courts.

Several other courts originally created by statute retained limited civil and criminal jurisdiction throughout their particular counties. These **special courts** include the civil courts of Bibb and Richmond counties; the municipal courts of Columbus and Savannah; the county courts of Baldwin, Echols and Putnam counties; and the magistrate's courts located in Douglas, Rockdale and Clarke counties. Special courts authorized to exercise criminal jurisdiction only included the magistrate's courts of Baldwin and Glynn counties and the county recorder's courts in Chatham, DeKalb, Gwinnett and Muscogee counties.

At the local level, Georgia has more than 400 courts which try local traffic offenses and cases involving violations of municipal ordinances and exercise the criminal jurisdiction of justices of the peace. Under a new law enacted in 1983, such courts may also exercise concurrent jurisdiction over cases involving possession of one ounce or less of marijuana. These courts, which serve incorporated municipalities, include city courts, mayor's courts, municipal courts and recorder's courts.

Among the courts affected by the new judicial article and recent acts providing for its implementation are justice of the peace courts, small claims courts, magistrate courts, some special courts and municipal courts. On July 1, 1983, the former three types of courts, along with the County Court of Echols County, became the newly denominated **magistrate courts** with uniform, countywide jurisdiction. (The new judicial article classified the county courts of Baldwin and Putnam counties as state courts.)

Magistrates' jurisdiction authorizes them to 1) hear applications for and issue search and arrest warrants, 2) preside in actions related to bonds for good behavior and bonds to keep the peace, 3) hold criminal commitment hearings, 4) try county ordinance violations, 5) try civil claims up to $2,500 where jurisdiction is not vested exclusively in the superior court, and 6) preside over dispossessory actions and issue distress warrants. Magistrates are granted power to fine (up to $200) and punish (up to 10 days) for contempt and may set bail when granting bail is not exclusively reserved to another court. Additionally, the magistrate court may issue subpoenas for witnesses and administer oaths of office for which authority is not assigned to another official. Since the magistrate court cannot conduct jury trials, county ordinance violation cases must be transferred to the state or superior courts when a written demand for jury trial is made before trial.

Following the transition period in which the initial chief magistrate is appointed by majority vote of a county's superior court judges, each chief magistrate will be elected on a partisan basis in general elections. Other magistrate positions, as determined by the superior court judges, will be filled by appointment by the chief magistrate. All magistrates and chief magistrates will serve four-year terms.

In regard to local courts, the judicial article identifies all types of municipal courts, of whatever name (mayor's, city or recorder's courts), as **municipal courts**. One exception is the City Court of Atlanta, which retained its name. These courts will continue with the same jurisdiction as they exercised at the end of fiscal year 1983.

Judicial Agencies

Judicial Council of Georgia/ Administrative Office of the Courts

Since its creation by statute in 1973, the Judicial Council of Georgia has sought to establish both general policies and specific guides to action for the improved operation of the state's judicial system. The Council directs its staff, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), to perform various legislatively prescribed duties in assisting court officials with issues pertaining to court administration and in providing services requested by judges and other court personnel. Additionally, the Judicial Council executes certain administrative responsibilities in regard to other judicial branch agencies.

In planning its activities at the beginning of FY'83, the Judicial Council adopted 14 goals and 31 related objectives. Most of the goals reflected the Council's statutory duties and its intention to have the AOC continue at its FY'82 operating level. However, shortly past midyear, it became clear that funding cutbacks would not permit a stabilization of AOC operations. The Council itself found it necessary to temporarily redirect its efforts away from its normal functions toward solving the problems presented by the funding crisis.

As the direct result of an emergency Council meeting called in February, 1983, steps were taken to deal with the reality of the appropriation cut-back. An amendment to a Supreme Court housekeeping measure pending in the House of Representatives provided essentially for the repeal of legislation originally constituting the Judicial Council and authorized the Supreme Court to create a new judicial council. Through a petition dated February 28, 1983, the Council requested the Supreme Court to assume supervisory responsibility for the budgetary and administrative functions of the AOC, contingent upon the repeal of the original legislation. The petition also asked that the membership of the Council be reconstituted. In response to the petition, the Supreme Court on August 5, 1983, ordered the reconstitution of the Council but refrained from specifically granting itself supervisory control. However, plans to physically relocate the AOC in closer proximity to the Supreme Court were formed and were carried out after the end of the fiscal year.

As part of its general duty to formulate and submit recommendations for the improvement of the judicial system, the Judicial Council acted on requests from seven circuits for additional judicial manpower. The Council endorsed only one request—from the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit—in making its annual recommendation regarding the need for additional superior court judgeships to the General Assembly and to the Governor during the 1983 legislative session. Rather than enacting the Blue Ridge judgeship measure recommended by the Council, the legislature instead approved the formation of a new Appalachian Judicial Circuit by splitting three counties from the Blue Ridge circuit.

In considering proposals for improvements in the traffic court area, the Council reacted to a number of suggestions made by its traffic court committee to register support for traffic legislation under consideration by the Department of Public Safety's Hazardous Driving Study Committee.

In other action during the year, the Council assisted judges and court personnel by suggesting guidelines for handling *in forma pauperis* filings in civil matters and the expungement of first offender records. The Council also performed specific administrative duties as required by various statutes. It approved the curricula for the Georgia Justice Courts Training Council's certification/recertification program and affirmed an appeal of a Board of Court Reporting decision issued in FY'82 to suspend the certification of a court reporter.

Administrative Office of the Courts

As staff to the Judicial Council, the AOC serves as the primary source of management information on the Georgia court system. In gathering and disseminating such information, the AOC performs fiscal, communications, research and court administration services to members of the judiciary and the general public.

To facilitate the delivery of services, the AOC is organized as two divisions—administration / operations and research/court services. These two divisions operate under the authority of the director, who is appointed by the Judicial Council to oversee the agency's activities and who serves as the primary contact for staff services to the judicial system at the state level.

The administration/operations division is responsible for providing systemwide fiscal and communications services, as well as managing the internal operations of the AOC. Fiscal services include preparation of the unified judicial budget and serving as budget officer and accountant for seven state-level judicial agencies.

A major function of the AOC is to promote communication among all the participants in the court system. A primary vehicle for this communication is the *Georgia Courts Journal* which, during the past year, was published monthly and distributed to more than 2,600 judges, clerks, court reporters and members of governmental and educational organizations. The *Courts Journal* informs its readership of changes in judicial procedure and personnel, recent legislation, activities of judicial organizations and other matters relating to judicial process and court administration.

Other communications publications completed and distributed during fiscal year 1983 included the *Judicial Legislative Log* (which was discontinued after two issues due to budgetary constraints), the *1982 Georgia Courts Directory* and the *Ninth Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts*.

The AOC also monitors and issues information pertaining to the courts in working to establish an effective communicational exchange with the press and the public. Seven issues of the public relations digest—compilations of articles appearing in the Georgia press about the courts—were prepared and distributed to members of the Judicial Council. The digests served as a way to gauge public opinion and to identify matters to be addressed by the Judicial Council. The AOC also issued 62 news releases and four radio spots during the year to announce changes in judicial personnel, court improvements and other judicial activities of interest to the general public.

The research/court services division is generally responsible for compiling and evaluating caseload and other statistical data on the work of the courts to propose recommendations for court improvements. The AOC supervises the manual collection of trial court caseload data each year to identify excessive caseload burdens and to provide the legislature and the governor with a written recommendation for additional superior court judicial manpower. During the past year, the AOC analyzed fiscal year 1982 caseload data and published the *Tenth Annual Report Regarding the Need for Additional Superior Court Judgeships*. It also utilized trend data gathered through several annual caseload studies to complete the *Caseload Summary Report 1971-1981* and the superior courts' *Open Caseload Report 1977-1981*.

The AOC performs certain statutorily-prescribed activities and conducts studies in requested areas. In conjunction with the State Records Committee, the AOC approved 12 statewide and 15 local records retention schedules to assist officials in managing court records. (In all, the AOC drafted 27 statewide retention applications.) Impact studies for the division of the Blue Ridge and Southern judicial circuits were prepared pursuant to requests by the legislature and the Judicial Council, respectively. A survey of judicial and court personnel salaries was conducted and the results published in the *Salary Survey of Georgia's Trial Court Personnel, 1982*. The AOC also researched procedures for selected areas of proposed legislation, including the nonpartisan election of judges, transfer of judges, superior court judges' retirement and six-member juries.

Advisory Council for Probation

The Advisory Council for Probation is composed of 10 superior court judges representing each of the 10 judicial administrative districts. Originally created and funded in 1980 to recommend improvements in statewide probation, the Advisory Council operated with no legislative appropriation in fiscal year 1983. The Advisory Council severely limited the extent of its activities during the past year, directing its research efforts toward studying reduction in jail and prison populations by reducing crime.

The Council's research has been conducted on a local basis in conjunction with a private corporation composed of the Council's chairman and local judicial and prosecution officials. Programs and procedures facilitating the confinement and conviction of probated felons who are using drugs or committing other crimes were utilized by law enforcement officials in conformity with the Council's designed use of urinalysis, lie detection and special conditions of probation. Observed results of the programs included a reduction in the use of illegal drugs by probated felons.

Additional efforts initiated during the year included a criminal alcoholic program and a pilot program to provide pre/post sentencing support for the Albany-Dougherty County Recorder's Court. The criminal alcoholic program was instituted to reduce alcohol-related accidents and crimes, on the supposition that a reduction in alcoholism and behavioral problems for crime and violence prone drinkers will reduce the need for prison space. The sentencing support program was developed to assist the recorder's court in dealing with problems generally characteristic of municipal courts, namely fine enforcement methods, little available jail space and no probation department.

Board of Court Reporting

In line with its responsibility to regulate the state's court reporting profession and guarantee a minimum proficiency level by reporting practitioners, the Board of Court Reporting certifies both official and freelance court reporters. The Board also investigates complaints filed against court reporters and administers disciplinary action when warranted. The Judicial Council of Georgia governs court reporting fees through the regulation and adjustment of an established fee schedule.

By means of a biannual certification examination, the Board tests reporting skills in three methods of takedown, including machine and manual shorthand and Stenomask. Persons who pass the initial examination need only submit an annual renewal fee to remain certified. During FY'83, the Board tested 214 persons. Of the 90 persons certified, 82 successfully completed the 'B' test, and eight passed the 'A' test. Reporters must pass the 'B' test, which involves dictation, transcription and a written exam, to become certified. The 'A' test is given by the Board to provide certified reporters an opportunity to upgrade their professional status.

On June 30, 1983, there were 643 certified court reporters in Georgia, along with 51 reporters working under temporary permits. Also at that time, 11 reporters were practicing under judicial temporary permits issued by a judge which allowed the holder to work for the judge or in his circuit. A total of 69 new temporary permits were issued during the year. Twenty-five permits were revoked for failure to attend the test (20) or for failure to pass the examination in two testing periods (five).

The Board received four formal complaints against certified reporters in FY'83. Three complaints were dismissed for lack of jurisdiction over the subject matter of the complaint, while one complaint was withdrawn after a date for hearing had been set.

On May 1, 1983, the Board suspended 39 certificates for failure to submit the renewal fee and application by the April 1 deadline. Seven reporters subsequently renewed their licenses by returning an application for renewal form and remitting the renewal and delinquent fees.

Late in the year, the Judicial Council took specific action on the subject of court reporting fees. The Council adopted the Board's earlier recommendation to revise the method of charging for partial pages of transcript, which set aside the necessity to update per-line charges whenever the page rate changed. The per-line breakdown was eliminated, thereby instituting the full page rate for pages with 13 or more lines and no charge for 12 lines or less.

The Council also rendered an opinion concerning the fee schedule for official court reporters. Its decision bound all reporters acting in an 'official' capacity, or those appointed by the court they serve and whose attendance at proceedings is mandatory, to the fee structures established by the Judicial Council.

In other action, the Judicial Council approved a number of changes in the grievance procedure used by the Board. These changes 1) allowed the Board to file complaints on its own motion, 2) provided for notification to the person who is the subject of the complaint when the complaint is forwarded to the Board, 3) permitted a committee or staff member to investigate written motions and make recommendations to the Board, 4) established the standard by which a complaining party must prove an allegation as a preponderance of evidence, and 5) allowed the Board to dismiss a complaint if it is determined to be frivolous or outside the jurisdiction of the Board.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges

The Council of Juvenile Court Judges is composed of all judges of the courts exercising jurisdiction over juveniles. Its purpose is to promote more effective administration and operation of the state's juvenile courts. Ongoing activities of the Council include: establishing general policies for the conduct of courts exercising jurisdiction over juveniles, operating a statewide juvenile information system, promoting continuing education for judges and court staff, implementing legislation passed by the General Assembly affecting the juvenile courts and providing assistance and funds for the improvement of services to juvenile offenders.

The Council addresses a broad range of juvenile justice related issues through its standing committees and professional staff. The Education and Certification committee planned programs for two seminars that provided specialized training for juvenile court referees and judges exercising juvenile court jurisdiction. To meet the requirements of mandatory training legislation, judges could attend either the 1982 fall seminar at Unicoi Conference Center or the 1983 spring seminar held in Savannah.

Plans were made for expansion of the computerized juvenile information system which is now in place in 90 counties. Statistical reports profiling the juvenile court's clientele and caseflow were produced for 60 counties during FY 1983. The Council has applied for grant funds to finance additional computer hardware and to purchase technical assistance from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in order to develop a true statewide data base with information storage and retrieval capabilities.

The Council continued operation of its Purchase of Services for Juvenile Offenders program with a $300,000 grant award from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. This program makes funds available on a reimbursement basis to local courts for the development of a variety of community-based services that provide alternatives to institutional treatment for status offenders and delinquents. Sixty-nine counties have access to these funds to finance court-ordered counseling and tutoring programs, temporary housing, symbolic restitution projects, community works jobs and related services.

Other Council activities and functions for FY 1983 included: involvement in the direction and administration of a training project to provide continuing education for direct service personnel of the juvenile courts; yearly revision of the *Juvenile Court Benchbook* and the *Juvenile Court Manual* used by judges throughout the state; publication of a directory of the Council membership; assistance to the Floyd County and Houston County juvenile courts in restructuring their intake and probation operations; work on draft legislation for a new termination of parental rights statute; promotion of a National Council project to provide for regular judicial review of children placed by the courts in foster care arrangements; and drafting uniform rules of court to insure uniform procedures and forms in the state's juvenile courts as required by the new constitution.

Georgia Justice Courts Training Council

From 1978 through the end of FY'83, the Georgia Justice Courts Training Council was responsible for conducting a certification program for justices of the peace and small claims court judges exercising justice of the peace jurisdiction. Due to recent legislation, however, on July 1, 1983, the Council became the newly created Magistrate Courts Training Council whose responsibility is to provide training for magistrates as required by the 1983 magistrate court act (Ga. Laws 1983, p. 884).

Sponsored by the Council and executed by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education, the FY'83 certification program entailed a two-part training schedule. One 40-hour certification course was conducted for newly elected or appointed judges, and three 20-hour recertification seminars were held for justices of the peace to fulfill the annual continuing education requirement and maintain their certified status. Exempt from the training requirement were judges who had practiced law for a minimum of four years.

At the 40-hour course, attendees received basic instruction on theoretical topics and practical application of legal procedures. Actions falling under both criminal and civil jurisdiction were covered, as well as selected topics such as judicial immunity and discipline, communication skills and the role of justices of the peace and small claims court judges as magistrates. The 20-hour sessions provided more specialized training in most of the same areas presented at the certification seminar.

To defray speaker and materials costs, the Council charged judges attending the recertification courses a $60 tuition fee. New judges paid a fee of $115 for their training and related expenses. All new judges received a full set of the Georgia Code Unannotated (1981), the 1982 Code Supplement, conversion table to the new Official Code of Georgia Annotated and an index. Participants of the

20-hour seminars were provided supplements, conversion tables, and in some cases, a full set of the 1981 Unannotated Code. All attendees also received a materials package as requested by seminar instructors, who included attorneys, law professors, judges and court administrators.

The Council approved certification for 307 justices of the peace and 71 small claims court judges who completed training during the year. Fifteen judges failed to complete the requirements for certification. Thirty-four judges were certified after having successfully completed the 40-hour course. The Council recertified 344 judges who met the requirements of the 20-hour program.

In regard to its training policy, the Council made two changes affecting the conditions of participants' certification. Effective in FY'83, each participant must have achieved a passing grade of 70% on the written examination, which was assigned in sections to be completed outside of class following the end of each seminar day. Participants failing to attain the passing grade were provided an opportunity to complete a make-up exam at home and/or the chance to return to the following seminar to retake the test.

Georgia Justice Courts Training Council
FY 1983 Seminars

Date	Location	# Hours	Attendees	# Certified
September 13-15, 1982	Athens	20	83	79
January 10-12, 1983	Macon	20	115	113
March 7-9, 1983	Macon	20	156	152
May 9-13, 1983	Macon	40	39	34

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

During the past fiscal year, the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education intensified its focus on the implementation and improvement of in-state training for judges and court officials. Primary efforts were directed at maintaining an adequate financial base for state-based programs. Both immediate activities and long-range plans were coordinated to enable the Institute and its Board of Trustees to forecast anticipated demands on resources for judicial education.

The Institute conducted 19 training programs for 10 different groups of professionals involving more than 1700 participants in FY'83. Three traditional programs—for judicial secretaries, court administrators and independent juvenile court probation officers—not originally budgeted for the year were later included in the Institute's 1983 training schedule when funds became available. These funds were provided as a result of the University of Georgia law school assuming total salary and fringe benefit costs for the Institute's executive director during the last nine months of the fiscal year. Additional funds were contributed through the reallocation of budgeted travel reimbursements absorbed by local governments.

In addition to traditional state-based activities, the Institute for the first time jointly sponsored a training program for non-judicial personnel with the Department of Offender Rehabilitation's Division of Probation. Thirty-four individuals were furnished some financial assistance to participate in approved out-of-state educational programs.

The Institute's Board of Trustees adopted standards governing the design and execution of state-based education programs and approved a statement of goals regarding anticipated accomplishments of judicial education in Georgia. Policy guidelines governing access to nationally-based training funds were also revised.

Programs Sponsored by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education
July 1, 1982 - June 30, 1983

Program	Location	Date	Attendance
Summer Seminar for Superior Court Judges	Savannah	July 26-28, 1982	94
Justice of the Peace Annual 20-Hour Recertification Program	Athens	September 13-15, 1982	83
Independent Juvenile Probation Officers	Jekyll Island	September 15-17, 1982	96
20th Annual Seminar for Georgia Superior Court Judges	Athens	October 27-29, 1982	101
Fall Seminar for Georgia Probate Court Judges	Augusta	November 9-11, 1982	105
Fall Seminar for Clerks of Superior Court	Augusta	November 9-11, 1982	107
21st Annual Workshop for Georgia Juvenile Court Judges	Helen	November 17-19, 1982	79
Justice of the Peace Annual 20-Hour Recertification Program	Macon	January 10-12, 1983	115
Justice of the Peace Annual 20-Hour Recertification Program	Macon	March 7-9, 1983	156
1983 Judicial Orientation	Atlanta	March 22-23, 1983	43
1983 Annual Seminar for State Court Judges	Atlanta	March 24-25, 1983	23
20th Institute for Clerks of Superior Court	Athens	April 11-13, 1983	178
27th Institute for Georgia Probate Court Judges	Athens	April 20-22, 1983	171
Spring Seminar for Juvenile Court Judges	Savannah	April 27-29, 1983	74
Spring Seminar for Independent Juvenile Court Probation Staff	Helen	May 4-6, 1983	73
Justice of the Peace 40-Hour Basic Certification Program	Macon	May 9-13, 1983	39
Annual Seminar for Judicial Secretaries	Atlanta	May 19-20, 1983	55
Seminar on the Community Service Sentencing Option	Atlanta	May 26, 1983	125
Annual Seminar for Court Administrators	Atlanta	May 26-27, 1983	15

Judicial Nominating Commission

The Judicial Nominating Commission solicits nominations and evaluates the qualifications of nominees for judicial positions to assist the governor in appointing well-qualified individuals to judicial office. The nominating process is most often undertaken to fill judicial vacancies, although nominations may also be taken to fill newly created judgeships.

Prior to consideration for appointment, candidates for judicial office must fulfill specific qualifications. While the qualifications for different judicial positions vary, most candidates must meet a residency and age requirement. Judges of the appellate and superior courts must exhibit active membership in the State Bar of Georgia for seven years, and state court judges must be admitted to practice law for at least five years. Qualifications for these and other judicial positions are specified either in the state constitution or in various statutes which created the particular courts.

The Judicial Nominating Commission held four meetings in fiscal year 1983 to consider nominations for five superior court vacancies and one state court vacancy. Since its creation by executive order in 1973, the Commission has acted on a total of 113 judgeships, including 1) nine Supreme Court vacancies, 2) nine Court of Appeals vacancies, 3) 75 superior court judicial positions, 4) 19 state court judicial positions, and 5) two municipal court judgeships.

Judicial Qualifications Commission

The Judicial Qualifications Commission conducts investigations and hearings concerning complaints of misconduct by Georgia judges and is responsible for issuing formal and informal opinions in response to inquiries regarding appropriate judicial conduct. The Commission's activities are governed by rules adopted by the Supreme Court, which is authorized to review all proceedings.

Following the investigation of a complaint and a subsequent hearing or evaluation, the Commission may recommend to the Supreme Court the removal, discipline or retirement of a particular judge. The reasons for which a judge may be disciplined or removed or retired from office include 1) willful misconduct in office; 2) willful and persistent failure to perform duties; 3) habitual intemperance; 4) conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice which brings the judicial office into disrepute; or 5) disability seriously interfering with the performance of duties, which is, or is likely to become of a permanent character.

During fiscal year 1983, the Commission held 11 regular meetings and four formal hearings. Of the 22 cases pending from FY'82 and 85 new cases received during the year, 89 cases were concluded. Fifty-five complaints were dismissed as disclosing no basis for disciplinary action, while two complaints were withdrawn by the complainant. The Commission closed two cases due to the failure of the complainant to furnish sufficient information. Three cases were resolved through agreement with the judge involved, and four were closed by calling the judge's attention to specific canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct. While four other complaints were pending, one judge was defeated in a bid for reelection, and three judges resigned from office. The Commission closed one case because the judge involved had been suspended in a similar matter.

The Commission made five reports and recommendations to the Supreme Court during the year, one for informational purposes only where the Commission declined to recommend discipline. Of two recommendations for removal, one was rejected by the court, and one judge was removed. In regard to two recommendations for suspension, the Supreme Court suspended one judge for 60 days, while the other matter was pending before the court at the end of the year.

During FY'83 the Commission issued three formal opinions and 10 informal opinions. Synopses of the formal opinions are presented below.

Opinion 49: *Where a newly appointed judge sold all of the tangible and intangible assets of his law office and practice to a former associate, payment for which was to be made partly in cash and the balance over a period of several years, these facts would not necessarily cause a judge to be disqualified to preside in cases in which the associate was involved; although there might be circumstances which might cause the outcome of the litigation to have direct effect on timely payment of the indebtedness, in which event it would be in order for the judge to recuse himself if he entertained any reasonable doubt as to his ability to preside impartially or if he believed that his impartiality might reasonably be questioned by others.*

Opinion 50: *Acceptance by a judge of an invitation to a bench and bar conference retreat put on by the Atlanta Bar Association whose room, board and registration charges would be financed by the Association mainly from registration fees paid by attending lawyers would not constitute a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct.*

Opinion 51: *Under Canon 5D it is improper for a judge to serve as executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or other fiduciary in which capacity he may have been serving at the time of his appointment to the bench.*

The seven members of the Judicial Qualifications Commission include two judges of courts of record, three members of the State Bar of Georgia and two citizen members. As determined by the rules of the Commmission, no member other than a judge may hold public or judicial office, and no member is permitted to hold office in any political party or organization.

Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel

From fiscal year 1982 to FY'83, the Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel realized a 23 percent increase in the number of sentences reviewed. The panel reviewed a total of 2,447 actual cases resulting from the 3,096 applications for review received by the panel's clerk during the year.

Cases subject to review by the panel are those sentences or consecutive sentences totaling five or more years set by a superior court judge without a jury. Exceptions to the panel's jurisdiction include sentences set in misdemeanor cases, cases in which the death penalty has been imposed and murder cases where a life sentence has been imposed.

In reviewing applications, the panel seeks to determine whether an excessive sentence has been imposed by the trial judge. Consideration is given to the nature of the crime for which the defendant was convicted and to the defendant's prior criminal record. The panel may reduce sentences only. It may neither increase nor suspend any sentence, nor reduce sentences to probation.

The cumulative reduction rate for cases reviewed since the panel's inception (July 1, 1974) decreased in FY'83 to 6.45 percent. The reduction rate for the past year—3.60 percent—was the lowest in the history of the Sentence Review Panel.

Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel
Summary of Cases Reviewed

Fiscal Year 1983 Caseload

	Cases affirmed	Cases reduced
PANEL 33	519	31
PANEL 34	446	12
PANEL 35	738	27
PANEL 36	656	18
TOTAL	2,359	88

Five-year Comparison of Cases Reviewed

	Cases affirmed	Cases reduced	% of cases reduced
FY 1979	1,134	101	8.18
FY 1980	1,228	90	6.83
FY 1981	1,542	145	8.60
FY 1982	1,846	136	6.86
FY 1983	2,359	88	3.60

Appendix 1

Judicial Personnel Changes: FY'83

Appointments

Supreme Court of Georgia

Justice Richard Bell for term 11/1/82 to 1/1/83.

Superior Courts

Clayton Judicial Circuit

Judge Stephen E. Boswell for term 9/13/82 to 1/1/83.

Gwinnett Judicial Circuit

Judge James A. Henderson for term 5/27/83 to 12/31/84.

Judge K. Dawson Jackson for term 12/1/82 to 12/31/84.

South Georgia Judicial Circuit

Judge Willard H. Chason for term 12/29/82 to 1/1/85.

Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit

Judge James H. Weeks for term 11/15/82 to 1/1/85.

State Courts

Clayton County

Judge Harold G. Benefield for term 3/18/83 to 1/1/85.

Juvenile Courts

Alapaha Judicial Circuit

Judge Benjamin Gratz, Jr. for one-year term beginning 7/1/82.

Chattooga County

Judge William Jerry Westbrook for term 2/10/83 to 2/10/89.

Douglas County

Judge Stephen J. Messinger for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/85.

Terrell County

Judge Robert B. Phillips for term 2/1/83 to 2/1/89.

Small Claims Courts

Butts County

Judge John Moore for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/85.

Habersham County

Judge William Ray Oliver for term 8/24/82 to 1/1/83.

Henry County

Judge James P. Brown for term 8/19/82 to 12/31/82.

Irwin County

Judge David Barfield for term 7/1/82 to 12/31/83.

Jasper County

Judge Wilson H. Bush for term 8/19/82 to 12/31/84.

Jefferson County

Judge Quillian L. Bryant, Jr., for term 8/19/82 to 7/2/84.

Miller County

Judge Frankie M. Phillips for term 7/7/82 to 6/17/86.

Screven County

Judge Donna Deroff for term beginning 7/1/82.

Talbot County

Judge Emmett S. Livingston for term 3/21/83 to 1/1/87.

Walker County

Judge Jerry Day for term beginning 7/1/82.

Elections

Superior Courts

Atlantic Judicial Circuit

Judge David L. Cavender for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit

Judge Rufe E. McCombs for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Cobb Judicial Circuit

Judge P. Harris Hines for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Conasauga Judicial Circuit

Judge William T. Boyett for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Douglas Judicial Circuit

Judge Robert J. James for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Flint Judicial Circuit

Judge William H. Craig for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Macon Judicial Circuit

Judge Bryant Culpepper for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Rockdale Judicial Circuit

Judge Clarence R. Vaughn, Jr. for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit

Judge Dan Coursey for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Waycross Judicial Circuit

Judge Joseph B. Newton for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

State Courts

Cobb County

Judge Robert E. McDuff for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Judge Ken Nix for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Magistrate's Division

Judge Chris Landise for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Judge Mary Staley for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Gwinnett County

Judge Richard T. Winegarden for term 5/17/83 to 1/1/87.

Houston County

Judge L. A. McConnell for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Muscogee County

Judge Robert G. Johnston for term 2/2/83 to 1/1/85.

Analysis of Statewide Judicial Manpower (July 1, 1982 to June 30, 1983)

Court	Total Number Judgeships	Judges Beginning First Terms: Method of Selection: Elected	Appointed	New Judgeship	Total	Judges Leaving the Bench: Reason for Leaving: Resigned	Retired	Not reelected/Not a candidate for reelection	Died	Total[1]
Supreme Court	7	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Court of Appeals	9	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0
Superior Courts	123[2]	5	4	6	15	2	4	2	1	9
State Courts (Full & Part-Time)	77	4	2	1	7	5	-	-	1	6
Juvenile Courts (Full & Part-Time)	50	-	2	3	5	2	-	-	-	2
Probate Courts	159	3	-	-	3	-	2	-	1	3

As of June 30, 1983.

[1]Total number of judges leaving the bench does not match total number of new judges in some instances because of new appointments or vacancies which existed at the end of the fiscal year.

[2]Although 123 superior court judgeships had been allocated by the end of the year, 122 had been filled.

Appendix 2

Judicial Agencies Directory

Tattnall County
Judge Albert R. Rahn, III for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Probate Courts

Clayton County
Judge Eugene E. Lawson for term 5/3/83 to 1/1/85.

Colquitt County
Judge Aileen H. Gay for term 11/23/82 to 1/1/85.

Hall County
Judge Jack C. Hulsey for term 2/1/83 to 1/1/85.

Special Courts

Civil Court of Bibb County
Judge Burl Davis for term 1/1/83 to 1/1/87.

Advisory Council for Probation

Judge Asa D. Kelley, Jr.
Chairman
Superior Court
Dougherty Judicial Circuit
Albany

Judge George E. Oliver
Vice chairman
Superior Court
Eastern Judicial Circuit
Savannah

Judge Joe C. Crumbley
Superior Court
Clayton Judicial Circuit
Jonesboro

Judge Joseph B. Duke
Superior Courts
Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit
Milledgeville

Judge William F. Grant
Superior Courts
Northern Judicial Circuit
Elberton

Judge Walker P. Johnson, Jr.
Superior Courts
Macon Judicial Circuit
Macon

Judge A. R. Kenyon
Superior Courts
Northeastern Judicial Circuit
Gainesville

Judge Robert J. Noland
Superior Courts
Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit
Douglasville

Judge Clarence L. Peeler, Jr.
Superior Court
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Decatur

Judge Osgood O. Williams
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Board of Court Reporting

Pat Morris
Chairperson
Court Reporter
Atlanta

Robert M. Brinson
Attorney
Rome

Lounell B. Day
Court Reporter
Tifton

Kirk M. McAlpin
Attorney
Atlanta

Judge Ben J. Miller
Superior Courts
Griffin Judicial Circuit
Thomaston

Philip G. Vincent
Court Reporter
Moultrie

Janet G. Wilkinson
Court Reporter
Milledgeville

Robert L. Doss, Jr.
Secretary
Administrative Office of the Courts
Atlanta

Council of Juvenile Court Judges

Judge Martha K. Glaze
President
Clayton County
Jonesboro

Judge Edward D. Wheeler
Immediate past president
DeKalb County
Decatur

Judge Othniel W. McGehee
President-elect
Bibb County
Macon

Judge Virgil Costley, Jr.
Vice president
Newton County
Covington

Judge Marvin W. Sorrells
Secretary
Walton County
Monroe

Judge David J. Turner, Jr.
Treasurer
Meriwether County
Manchester

Georgia Justice Courts Training Council

Judge Nick J. Lazaros
Chairman
Justice of the Peace,
Houston County
Warner Robins

Judge George W. Eisel, III
Vice chairman
Small Claims Court,
Hancock County
Sparta

Judge Leonard Danley
Justice of the Peace,
Douglas County
Winston

Judge Eleanor R. Dotson
Justice of the Peace,
Charlton County
Folkston

Judge J. Davis Roberts
Justice of the Peace,
Clayton County
Jonesboro

Robert L. Doss, Jr.
Ex officio secretary
Administrative Office of the Courts
Atlanta

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

Judge Willis B. Hunt, Jr.
Chairman
Superior Court
Houston Judicial Circuit
Perry

Dean J. Ralph Beaird
Vice chairman
University of Georgia School of Law
Athens

Judge Floyd E. Propst
Secretary-Treasurer
Probate Court of Fulton County
Atlanta

Judge A.W. Birdsong, Jr.
Court of Appeals of Georgia
Atlanta

Dean Karl P. Warden
Mercer University School of Law
Macon

A.G. Cleveland, Jr.
Attorney
Atlanta

Kirk M. McAlpin, Jr.
Attorney
Atlanta

Judge C. Cloud Morgan
Superior Courts
Macon Judicial Circuit
Macon

Dean Thomas Morgan
Emory University School of Law
Atlanta

Judge Rex R. Ruff
Juvenile Court of Cobb County
Marietta

Judge H. Jack Short
State Court of Colquitt County
Moultrie

Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.
Superior Courts
Griffin Judicial Circuit
Griffin

Judicial Administrative District Personnel

District 1

Senior Judge Dunbar Harrison
Administrative Judge
Eastern Judicial Circuit
Savannah

Daniel E. Deloach, Jr.
Administrative Assistant
Savannah

Circuits: Atlantic, Brunswick, Eastern, Ogeechee, Waycross

District 2

Judge Asa D. Kelley, Jr.[1]
Administrative Judge
Dougherty Judicial Circuit
Albany

Judge W.J. Forehand[1]
Administrative Judge
Tifton Judicial Circuit
Tifton

Roger E. Douglas
Administrative Assistant
Valdosta

Circuits: Alapaha, Dougherty, Pataula, South Georgia, Southern, Tifton

District 3

Senior Judge Hal Bell
Administrative Judge
Macon Judicial Circuit
Macon

David L. Ratley
Administrative Assistant
Macon

Circuits: Chattahoochee, Houston, Macon, Southwestern

District 4

Judge Richard Bell[2]
Administrative Judge
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Decatur

Judge Curtis V. Tillman[2]
Administrative Judge
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Decatur

Richard F. Jugar
Administrative Assistant
Decatur

Circuits: Rockdale, Stone Mountain

District 5

Judge Osgood O. Williams
Administrative Judge
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Ronald E. Owens
Administrative Assistant
Atlanta

John T. Shope[1]
Administrative Assistant
Atlanta

Circuit: Atlanta

District 6

Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Griffin Judicial Circuit
Griffin

Fred R. Roney
Administrative Assistant
Griffin

Circuits: Clayton, Coweta, Flint, Griffin

District 7

Judge Robert L. Royal
Administrative Judge
Rome Judicial Circuit
Rome

William L. Martin, III
Administrative Assistant
Cartersville

Circuits: Cherokee, Cobb, Douglas, Lookout Mountain, Rome, Tallapoosa

District 8

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Sandersville

Jack L. Bean
Administrative Assistant
Lyons

Circuits: Cordele, Dublin, Middle, Ocmulgee, Oconee

District 9

Judge Homer M. Stark[2]
Administrative Judge
Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
Lawrenceville

Judge James E. Palmour, III[2]
Administrative Judge
Northeastern Judicial Circuit
Gainesville

Benjamin R. Forrester
Administrative Assistant
Gainesville

Circuits: Blue Ridge, Conasauga, Gwinnett, Mountain, Northeastern

District 10

Judge William M. Fleming, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit
Augusta

L. Tom Gunnels
Administrative Assistant
Augusta

Circuits: Alcovy, Augusta, Northern, Piedmont, Toombs, Western

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[1] Judge Forehand was elected to replace Judge Kelley effective 9/15/82.

[2] Judge Tillman replaced Judge Bell upon Bell's appointment to the Supreme Court on 11/1/82.

[3] Mr. Shope replaced Mr. Owens on 9/1/82.

[4] Judge Palmour was elected to replace Judge Stark effective 8/25/82.

Judicial Council of Georgia

Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.
Chairman
Superior Courts
Griffin Judicial Circuit
Griffin

Judge Robert R. Cook
Vice chairman
Probate Court of Chatham County
Savannah

Judge Jere F. White
Secretary-Treasurer
Superior Courts
Cherokee Judicial Circuit
Cartersville

Judge Berry E. Brock
Justice of the Peace, Fulton County
Fairburn

Judge Tom Cauthorn[1]
State Court of Cobb County
Marietta

Woodson Daniel
Clerk, Pulaski County
Hawkinsville

Judge Joel J. Fryer
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge Joseph J. Gaines
Superior Courts
Western Judicial Circuit
Athens

Judge P. Harris Hines[2]
State Court of Cobb County
Marietta

Judge Ben A. Hodges[3]
Superior Courts
Waycross Judicial Circuit
Waycross

Judge George A. Horkan, Jr.
Superior Courts
Southern Judicial Circuit
Moultrie

Judge Francis Houston
State Court of Pierce County
Blackshear

Judge Willis B. Hunt, Jr.
Superior Court
Houston Judicial Circuit
Perry

Judge Harry Johnson, Jr.
Probate Court of Floyd County
Rome

Judge Nick J. Lazaros[4]
Justice of the Peace,
Houston County
Warner Robins

Judge Juanita D. Marsh
City Court of College Park
College Park

Justice Thomas O. Marshall
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta

Judge Jon Payne
Probate Court of Chattooga County
Summerville

Judge Grady C. Pittard, Jr.
State Court of Clarke County
Athens

Judge J. Kelley Quillian
Court of Appeals of Georgia
Atlanta

Bob Reinhardt
Past president
State Bar of Georgia
Tifton

J. Douglas Stewart
Immediate past president
State Bar of Georgia
Gainesville

Judge Coy H. Temples
Superior Courts
Conasauga Judicial Circuit
Dalton

Judge Hugh P. Thompson
Superior Court
Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit
Eatonton

Judge Curtis V. Tillman
Superior Court
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Decatur

Judge Edward D. Wheeler
Juvenile Court of DeKalb County
Decatur

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[1] Judge Lazaros replaced Judge Brock on the Council in January, 1983.

[2] Judge Cauthorn replaced Judge Hines in January, 1983.

[3] Judge Hodges died on May 17, 1983.

Judicial Nominating Commission

A.G. Cleveland, Jr.
Chairman
Atlanta

Mrs. Odone B. Hill
Hawkinsville

Ralph O. Walton
Hamilton

Henry Wisebram
Barnesville

Frank Love, Jr.
President
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta

Richard Y. Bradley
President-elect
State Bar of Georgia
Columbus

J. Douglas Stewart
Immediate past president
State Bar of Georgia
Gainesville

Bob Reinhardt[1]
Past president
State Bar of Georgia
Tifton

Richard A. Childs[1]
Immediate past president
Younger Lawyers Section
State Bar of Georgia
Columbus

Duross Fitzpatrick[2]
President-elect
State Bar of Georgia
Cochran

Richard T. DeMayo[2]
Immediate past president
Younger Lawyers Section
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta

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[1] Mr. Reinhardt and Mr. Childs left the Commission in June, 1983, upon the election of new officers of the State Bar. Mr. Bradley became president, Mr. Love became immediate past president and Mr. Stewart became past president.

[2] Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. DeMayo joined the Commission in June, 1983.

Judicial Qualifications Commission

H. Holcombe Perry, Jr.
Chairman
Albany

Howard Ector
Vice chairman
Atlanta

Howard S. Baxter
Atlanta

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
Superior Courts
Middle Judicial Circuit
Sandersville

Judge J. Taylor Phillips
State Court of Bibb County
Macon

Mrs. Laura Dorsey Raines
Atlanta

Will Ed Smith
Eastman

Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel

Administrative Board

Judge Luther Alverson
Chairman
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge James Barrow
Western Judicial Circuit
Athens

Judge Paul W. Painter
Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit
Rossville

Panel 33/1

Judge Clarence D. Blount
Chairman
Waycross Judicial Circuit
Waycross

Judge Marvin Hartley, Jr.
Middle Judicial Circuit
Lyons

Judge Jere F. White
Cherokee Judicial Circuit
Cartersville

Panel 33/2

Judge Leonard Farkas
Chairman
Dougherty Judicial Circuit
Albany

Judge Albert Pickett
Augusta Judicial Circuit
Augusta

Judge William A. Prior, Jr.
Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit
Madison

Supernumerary for both panels

Judge Tommy Day Wilcox
Macon Judicial Circuit
Macon

Panel 34/1

Judge Dewey Smith
Chairman
Coweta Judicial Circuit
Carrollton

Judge Whitfield R. Forrester
Cordele Judicial Circuit
Cordele

Judge A. Blenn Taylor, Jr.
Brunswick Judicial Circuit
Brunswick

Panel 34/2

Judge Ben J. Miller
Chairman
Griffin Judicial Circuit
Griffin

Judge Clarence Cooper
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge John D. Crosby
Tifton Judicial Circuit
Tifton

Supernumerary for both panels

Judge George H. Bryant
Northern Judicial Circuit
Hartwell

Panel 35/1

Judge James E. Palmour III
Chairman
Northeastern Judicial Circuit
Gainesville

Judge Hilton Fuller
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Decatur

Judge Hugh Lawson
Oconee Judicial Circuit
Hawkinsville

Panel 35/2

Judge Charles C. Pittard
Chairman
Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
Lawrenceville

Judge Grant Brantley
Cobb Judicial Circuit
Marietta

Judge Dubignion Douglas
Dublin Judicial Circuit
Dublin

Supernumerary for both panels

Judge Philip F. Etheridge
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Panel 36/1

Judge Perry Brannen, Jr.
Chairman
Eastern Judicial Circuit
Savannah

Judge William F. Lee, Jr.
Coweta Judicial Circuit
Newnan

Judge Phillip R. West
Oconee Judicial Circuit
Eastman

Panel 36/2

Judge Robert L. Stevens
Chairman
Toombs Judicial Circuit
Thomson

Judge Thad W. Gibson
Southwestern Judicial Circuit
Americus

Judge Jack N. Gunter
Mountain Judicial Circuit
Clarkesville

Supernumerary for both panels

Judge Asa D. Kelley, Jr.
Dougherty Judicial Circuit
Albany